

Hafa Adai!

Apatang estimates 90 pct. completion for Saipan since Yutu. **PAGE 3**

Five high schools to compete in CNMI mock trial. **PAGE 6**

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CNMI bids DOD servicemen farewell

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth said its good-

byes to the U.S. Department of Defense servicemen who were deployed here following Super Typhoon Yutu four months ago and

played a huge role in the CNMI's recovery efforts.

Yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, Saipan

Local and federal personnel with first responders pose for a group photo in yesterday's closing of the temporary emergency tent and roofing installation support program.

KEVIN CALIBO

Mayor David M. Apatang, Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, members of the Legislature, members of the

CNMI community, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Ser-
See CNMI on Page 4

Torres to lobby DC on H-2B

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is set to leave for Washington, D.C. in the third week of February to attend the National Governors Association's winter meeting and, at the same time, meet with some federal officials to talk about the H-2B program. The NGA meeting is set from Feb. 22 to 25.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently removed the Philippines from its list of countries whose workers are eligible for H-2B visas.

That visa program is usually

used for temporary non-agricultural workers like those in the construction trades.

Both employers and construction firms in the CNMI and Guam have

been using H-2B visas to hire construction workers.

Both U.S. territories have been experiencing a boom in construction

See TORRES on Page 4

Roof installations completed 4 months after Yutu

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The final nail on the 546th roof was drilled into place yesterday, signifying the completion of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's temporary roofing program in the Commonwealth, four months following the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Members of the Torres administration, members of the CNMI community, and servicemen under the U.S. Department of Defense came together to complete the construction of the final temporary roof under the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support program led by FEMA.

See ROOF on Page 4



Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho speaks in front of business leaders at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting yesterday at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort in Susupe

BEA CABRERA

Buried power lines eyed

By **BEA CABRERA**
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CORRESPONDENT

Overhead cables providing electrical power may soon go the way of the dodo, with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. contemplating an underground power system that is seen to benefit key areas in the CNMI in the wake of typhoons.

Speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting yesterday at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort in Susupe, CUC executive director Gary Camacho laid out CUC's resiliency plans after Super Typhoon Yutu.

"The underground project is one of the proposals that we are working with Federal Emergency Management Agency. ... We believe that, in secur-

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera experiences her first tandem jump with Skydive Saipan.

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BUSINESS

United Airlines will woo high-fare passengers with premium seats on key routes.

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WORLD

Pope Francis acknowledged the scandal of priests and bishops sexually abusing nuns.

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Local

'Atalig didn't attend last 3 days of Guam confab'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig traveled with a 20-person delegation from Rota, including his girlfriend, to attend a conference on traditional medicine at the University of Guam in January 2018, but

the two only showed up on the first day and did not attend the remaining three days of the event, according to a federal prosecutor.

Atalig's girlfriend and co-defendant, Evelyn M. Atalig later filed a misleading post-travel report which made it sound as if she had attended

the conference every day, said assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley.

He said Efraim M. Atalig would have known this to be false; the evidence will show the two spent the remaining days of the conference together.

"Yet, he authorized her to

receive the balance of her per diem payment based on that false submission," O'Malley pointed out.

The federal prosecutor cited the Guam conference Tuesday in the U.S. government's opposition to Efraim M. Atalig's motion to exclude evidence.

The Guam conference and two other additional trips were not included in the alleged scheme in the superseding indictment filed against Efraim M. Atalig and Evelyn Atalig.

The superseding indictment charged the Ataligs over five other trips.

The prosecution had notified Efraim M. Atalig's lawyer, David George Banes, that it intends to introduce evidence relating to three more trips.

Efraim M. Atalig, through Banes, then filed a motion to prevent the U.S. government from introducing those evidence at trial.

Banes argued, among other things, that the case against the mayor involving five trips is already a complicated one and that the prosecution's intent to introduce more evidence related to three more trips in which he is not charged with, will only mislead and confuse the jurors later at trial.

In the U.S. government's opposition, O'Malley said the additional three trips contain elements similar to other five trips described in the superseding indictment.

For example, O'Malley said, evidence will show that between Jan. 2 to 7, 2018, the Ataligs traveled with the 20-person delegation from Rota for the claimed purpose of attending the conference on traditional medicine at the University of Guam.

He said Efraim M. Atalig was scheduled to be a present-

er on Jan. 3, 2018, which was the "introduction day."

The prosecutor said Evelyn Atalig registered as a participant and the conference lasted through Jan. 6, 2018.

O'Malley said evidence will further show that after Efraim M. Atalig completed his presentation on the first day, neither he nor his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, attended the remaining days of the conference.

Such acts, O'Malley said, are similar to those alleged in the superseding indictment.

The prosecutor said the superseding indictment and count one contemplates an ongoing scheme which includes the two additional trips within the stated timeframe, as well as the trip to Guam that began Jan. 3, 2018.

He said the evidence therefore is intrinsic to proving the existence of a scheme and Efraim M. Atalig's participation.

O'Malley said the U.S. government has alleged an ongoing conspiracy wherein Efraim M. Atalig, acting in his official capacity as Rota mayor, abused his position by improperly authorizing travel for himself and others, particularly his girlfriend.

O'Malley said most, if not all of the travel authorizations that Efraim M. Atalig signed, described the purpose of the travel as in "best interest of the CNMI" or words to that effect.

He pointed out that the U.S. government intends to prove, however, that the motive and intent for the trips was first and foremost to serve the Ataligs' private interests.

"This will be evidenced by a plan or modus operandi wherein defendants used an arguably legitimate purpose

to conceal what were, in fact, either improper political campaign trips and/or de facto vacations, all at taxpayer expense," he said.

O'Malley said the U.S. government believes Efraim M. Atalig will attempt to argue that each trip had a legitimate purpose; that any excess days were due to circumstances beyond his control; that claiming per diem for those days was an innocent mistake; and that his participation in political campaign activities during some trips was mere coincidence.

O'Malley said evidence about additional trips is intertwined with proving that these were not isolated events involving innocent mistakes, but, rather, part of a long-running scheme that lasted eight months or more.

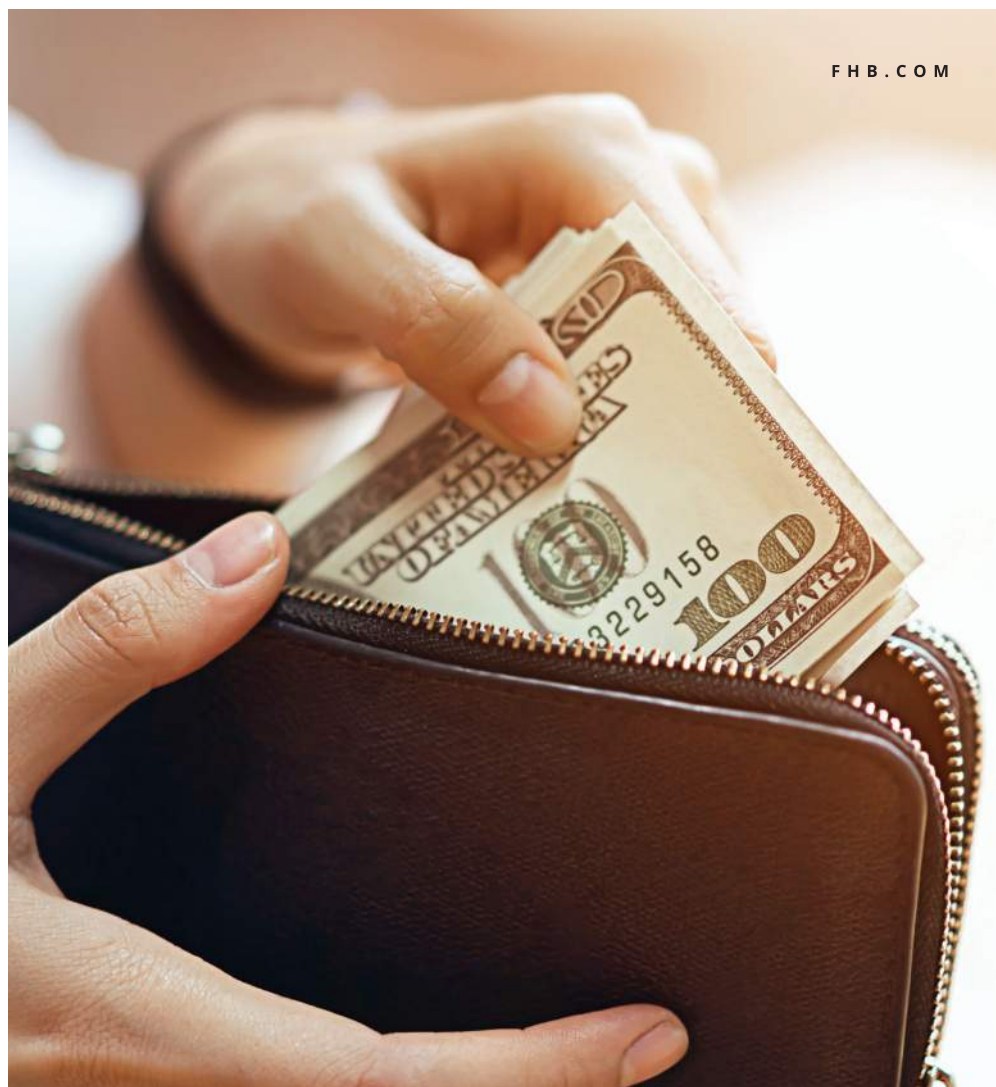
He noted that even if the court finds that evidence regarding the additional trips is not "inextricably intertwined" with the underlying charged offenses, it is admissible in order to prove motive, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, or absence of mistake or accident.

O'Malley said although there are several hundred pages of discovery relating to the additional trips, the evidence at trial will be much more limited.

"It is in the government's interest to present this evidence in a manner that does not confuse the issues, mislead the jury, cause an undue delay or waste time," he said.

The Ataligs are indicted on five corruption charges for arranging CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan under fraudulent pretenses.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty to all charges.



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'CASUAL FRIDAYS'

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second from left, joins CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan, left, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, second from right, and CNMI Division of Customs director Joe Mafnas, right, in yesterday's presentation of the Customs' personnel's new uniforms. The uniforms are intended to be worn only on Fridays, during what is being billed as "casual Fridays."

KEVIN CALIBO

Apatang estimates 90 pct. completion for Saipan since Yutu

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The debris cleanup from Super Typhoon Yutu is nearly complete, with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang estimating the cleanup at about 90 percent complete.

Citing personal estimates, Apatang noted the cleanup efforts among the various agencies involved in the post-Yutu cleanup is nearly ending as the CNMI enters into the its 106th day since the Category 5 super typhoon ravaged Saipan and Tinian.

"...So far we are doing very good. I think we are about 90 percent on the debris removal and hopefully we can get up to 99 percent," he said. Apatang noted that achieving complete debris removal is impossible since some homeowners "do not cooperate." "If we can get up to 99 percent, we are satisfied with that," he said.

According to a recent report by Saipan Mayor's Office field operations director Joann Aquino, the mayor's office alone was able to collect over 102,000 cubic yards of debris since Oct. 26, 2018, to Feb. 3, 2019. To put that into perspective, most small cars are about 4 cubic yards each.

"We regularly have debris removal task force meetings, usually with participation of a Federal Emergency Management Agency representative," he said.

Apatang noted that one of the main reasons his office is hard at work with debris collection is to prevent disease and illness from spreading. "...I don't want to see

Typhoon Yutu debris lying around where rats and mosquitoes can breed. We want to make sure that rodents don't

multiply in villages."

He added that the risk multiplies after disasters such as Super Typhoon Yutu.

"We should be concerned about rodents and disease, and that is why we are working very hard to remove the...

debris," he said.

The last day for debris collection is on Feb. 10, 2019. Homeowners must bring their

Yutu debris out into the curbside for collection or else the homeowners would be held responsible for the disposal.

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Islandwide power outage on Rota

There will be an emergency islandwide power interruption on Rota on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 8am to 12pm to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to perform preventive maintenance services on the generator that is currently serving power to the entire island.

"It is mechanically important that the generator is maintained properly and timely to continue effective and efficient power services to the island of Rota," CUC said in a statement.

For more information, contact the CUC Rota Office (532-9411/4) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

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PSS: Hopwood's temporary campus now ready

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The 42 temporary classrooms for the Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School is nearing completion, even as the Federal Emergency Management Agency addresses the nooks and crannies of the temporary campus in Koblerville.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña reported yesterday to the Board of Education that the temporary Hopwood

campus, which is right next to the Koblerville Elementary School, is now ready.

"All 42 [temporary classroom structures are completed]," said Muña. "Right now, we are working with our service providers to lay the cables for the network as well as the electricals."

He said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has already been paid for sewage, water, and power lines to support the temporary campus. All that

remains, Muña noted, is for CUC to hook them up.

The target start date of Feb. 19, 2019, according to Muña, has yet to be confirmed as they wait for the go-signal from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"But with my last conversation with them last week, they said they would be turning over the units to us by this Friday...We are just waiting to have a meeting with them," he told the board.

In a previous statement, Muña said full-day classes would resume immediately for both Hopwood and Marianas High School. As of publication, middle school classes are still being held at the MHS campus in the morning while the high school gets the campus for the rest of the day.

BOE chair Janice Tenorio commended Muña for prioritizing an alternative campus for Hopwood. The original Hopwood campus was completely destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu in late

October 2018.

According to Tenorio, prioritizing the alternative campus for Hopwood and MHS is in line with the BOE and the Public School System's goal to avoid delaying graduations and promotions.

"Right now, our goal [is] to build the FEMA structures. That was our priority...so that [Hopwood and Marianas High School] could go back to full-time classes to avoid amending the graduation calendar date and summer for the lost instructional time," she said.

"[Muña's] team plus the FEMA and the executive

branch are working hard [for our next step]," Tenorio said.

While noting that it is premature to discuss it, Tenorio assured that plans are in store for the new Hopwood campus. However, the specifics such as funding and the technicalities of the new campus have yet to be sorted out. By the time the students relocate to their new campus, talks would most probably have advanced.

"Our goal right now is to have those...tents up and working in full gear with all the infrastructures so all our students can be comfortable [during class]," she said.

CNMI

From Page 1

vices, and more came out to honor the men who worked day in and day out to restore the Commonwealth's sense of normalcy and provided relief following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu.

What the servicemen did for the people of Saipan was more than they could have asked for, Apatang said.

"I wish they could stay much longer but they have to go back. What they did was really a huge help for our people here, especially for those who had their houses completely demolished.

Now they can return to their normal way of life," he said.

Apatang said the servicemen did not just build roofs, they contributed to making the lives of the people of Saipan less stressful and traumatic.

"To lose a dwelling is to lose a home. That is the big challenge to overcome, to make a person focus on what's ahead rather than behind. Families are safer now and are protected from risks from the elements because you gave them shelter. I am very confident that the families here on Saipan will always remember your faces. The faces of those who worked hard to put a roof above their heads

and keep them from harm's way," he said.

Chatfield, who led the U.S. Department of Defense mission, said that they did what they could to bring back the spirits of those who were traumatized and devastated by Yutu.

"We did what we could to help, to respond, and to raise the spirits of those we encountered. I was really given an honor to lead a mission here of the joint forces that came to help. It's your spirit that inspired us, the military, to complete our mission," she said.

Chatfield said that the U.S. DOD servicemen and the Federal Emergency Management

Agency were able to remove 13,500 cubic yards of debris, install over 1,500 tents as temporary shelters, offloaded more than 1,079 passengers and 1,760,402 lbs of cargo on Saipan, and installed over 560 temporary roofs.

Saying goodbye yesterday were members of the U.S. DOD 84th Engineering Battalion, 374th Civil Engineering Squadron, 18th Civil Engineering Squadron, and the Naval Construction Battalion on Tinian.

"It has been an expressive effort for all, and this final rotation of service members have done a tremendous job," said Chatfield.

BURIED

From Page 1

ing [the power system] underground, we would be able to quickly re-energize critical areas," he said.

The priority is both Saipan and Tinian, Camacho later clarified.

For Saipan, the idea—at least for now—is to bury power lines in key areas so they remain unaffected during storms. The priorities are the hospital—the Commonwealth Health Center—and the airport—the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

"The hospital is imperative, especially during storms, as there is always a potential of people getting injured and it is important that the hospital is operational. The airport is a facility that has to have 24-hour operation to be able to provide the immediate supplies and materials for humanitarian purposes more than anything else," he said.

Camacho said that Yutu left Tinian and the south of Saipan with the most damage. "It was more than one island and this was really an eye-opener for us."

"We plan to tie Power Plant 1 with Power Plant 4 and inevitably to the hospital. ... Other location would be from the substation in Chalan Kiya to the airport to make available an emergency port of entry. This will accommodate 24-hour deliveries because, after Yutu, they could only do that during the day because it ran without power supply at night so we want to make sure that is something that can have a 24-hour [power]," Camacho added.

Another priority is replacing wood power poles with concrete ones. When Super Typhoon Yutu slammed into Saipan last Oct. 24 and 25, thousands of poles were snapped or taken down by winds of 180 miles per hour and gusts of up to 220 miles per hour. We incurred 2,142 total pole damage, 946 damaged transformers, and 1,118,930 linear feet of dam-

aged overhead conductors. ...

"We had thought about events like these and discussed it many times over the years but we really did not fully understand that we would have almost the same degree of damage on both islands," Camacho said.

"...Currently, any pole that went down will be replaced by concrete. ...We are also going to be changing a lot of wooden cross-arms with fiberglass and we are also considering to move to triple A 6 aluminum, which has a longer lifespan," he added.

All these would depend on the Federal Emergency Management Agency agreeing to fund this project and Camacho hopes that FEMA would consider them. "This would really allow us the opportunity to address those critical areas on any restoration of any island and allow us to focus on other areas. ...Unlike Typhoon Soudelor [in 2015], which took us 24 days to restore power at the production level, we were able to do it after Yutu in just a few days," he said.

"On Oct. 28 we started to produce power at Power Plant 4 but we had to transfer power over to Power Plant 1. ...This was a tricky process and very dangerous but we were able to do it that night. We then went from a small engine to a larger one and, from there, we were able to start to build load on the island," he added.

Camacho reiterated that, together with the Chamber, one of the priorities of CUC is the economy.

"We understand the importance of the economy, so there is positive growth rate in load restoration from Oct. 25 after Yutu and we continue to do that on both islands. ... Currently 99 percent of CUC power customers on Saipan has been restored and 79 percent of Tinian customers have been energized," he said.

"We live and we learn and this is a continuous learning process. ...We saw how important the government and the private sectors' relationship is during recovery efforts," he added.

TORRES

From Page 1

projects and other development. Military-funded projects in Guam, however, are exempted from the H-2B ban, with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero already requesting DHS to allow Guam to continue hiring skilled workers from the Philippines.

Torres said that he and Leon Guerrero have been communicating ever since DHS and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services released the information about the one-year ban. Both their respective chiefs of staff—Angel Demapan and Tony Babauta—are also in the loop.

"Governor Lou and I have

the same stance when it comes to the H-2B visa program. We [CNMI and Guam] have the same critical needs for workers, not just for military purposes but also outside the [military] fence," said Torres.

Torres plans to meet with Leon Guerrero at the NGA conference to further discuss their plans on how to approach the issue. He said that he's hoping to meet with several DHS officials while also in D.C.

Demapan, in a separate interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said they have been comparing notes with Guam when it comes to the H-2B issue. "We want to look at the issues that are affecting the CNMI, then obviously we're going to also look at the issues

affecting Guam."

"And on those have common or of mutual concerns between the CNMI and Guam, that's something that we can consider to take a joint effort on the issue. We are also arranging meetings with the governor to discuss USCIS issues. The NGA is coming up, so we hope to use that time to meet."

USCIS regulations

Demapan said the recent federal government shutdown may be the reason why USCIS has not yet released the new regulations for the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, which was signed by President Donald Trump on July 24, 2018. The Act called for the regulations

to be issued within 180 days; that's by Jan. 20, 2019.

"We are waiting for when are they [USCIS] are going to issue the regulations. We know that there was supposed to be a deadline to promulgate the regulations but, because of the shutdown, that pushed some things back.

"We're waiting to find out what's the timeline now for the regulations. Because we definitely want some certainty and stability for our employers and employees here."

CNMI employers and their workers have been waiting for the new regulations, with the delay becoming difficult for businesses to come up with their own long-term plans when it comes to their laborers and operations.

ROOF

From Page 1

Everyone in attendance conveyed from the Koblerville fire station to the home of Ana Aldan in Koblerville, the owner of the final temporary roofing program home.

Aldan was overjoyed to see the leaders of the community as they helped drill into place the final nail.

According to Aldan, she and her family appreciate the hard work the servicemen put into providing temporary shelters and roofs over those who were affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

"I'm so thankful that you

guys are here to help us. The second it was done, we moved in. It was very hard when it was raining in the morning and you would go inside the house, you'd be stepping in puddles inside the house. We're so happy that we can now sleep, cook, and eat in the house, instead of trying to find a place to eat because we can't eat in our tents because of rats, so we're glad we have a roof now," she said.

A few of the men who were tasked to rebuild Aldan's home said that she was one of the many who showed them amazing hospitality as they rebuilt her home.

The task that was initially scheduled to be completed in

two to three days was completed in one.

Aldan's home was one of the 362 homes on Saipan that were provided temporary roofs.

Aside from the 564 roofs installed on Saipan and Tinian, the DOD also provided relief through the distribution of relief goods, water, debris clean up, and tent installations, according to Rear Ad. Shoshana Chatfield, who leads the Joint Region Marianas as its commander and who also led the DOD mission.

"We did what we could to help, to respond, and to raise the spirits of those we encountered.

"...13,500 cubic yards of

debris was removed, over 1,500 tents were set up between Saipan and Tinian. Some of these numbers are just so staggering. ...It was an incredible effort," she said.

Chatfield expressed her appreciation to the deployed forces who fulfilled the mission they were tasked to complete in the CNMI.

"Your mission was to focus on temporary shelters... and the teams completed more than 500 temporary roofs, 362 of them on Saipan. The forces in the region, we stand ready to provide our support and... to secure the safety of the people of the Commonwealth. We are so proud to be a part of #MarianasStrong," she said.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

David Castro Sablan, third from left, and his wife, Evelyn Pangelinan Sablan, join his family members, friends, and members of his committee-to-elect in a group photo outside the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe yesterday morning. Sablan, an independent candidate, filed his candidacy for the March 23 special election for a seat in the House of Representatives Precinct 3.

David Castro Sablan files his candidacy for special election

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

David Castro Sablan, an independent bet, filed his candidacy yesterday morning before the Commonwealth Election Commission for the special election for a vacant Precinct 3 seat of the House of Representatives.

Sablan ran for a House Precinct 3 during the Nov. 13 general election. There were only six seats. He lost, landing in eighth place among the 12 candidates.

Yesterday, Sablan was accompanied to the CEC by his wife, Evelyn Pangelinan Sablan, some family members, friends, and members of his committee-to-elect.

Sablan believes he would make it this time.

If elected, Sablan said his main focus is to help those living below poverty level. "I'm really concerned about them. I want to make sure that they are taken care of because they have been neglected for so many years," he said.

Sablan has over 25 years of entrepreneurship with a family business and over 15 years of government service. At present, he is working as a real estate specialist 3 with the Department of Public Lands.

Sablan said he believes in the principles of the Democratic and Republican parties, but he opted to stay independent so he can serve both parties.

Sablan pledged to support Precinct 3's Garapan Business

Opportunity Zone, women-in-business enterprise opportunities, affordable housing for low to middle income families, and higher education preparation program for women.

Sablan wants to introduce what he calls the Si Yuus Maase Man Amko Commemorative Initiative, initiate affordable preventive health-care, and establish a heritage pathway for outdoor recreation and health and wellness.

He said he will push for first-generation household members to secure decent jobs and begin a farm-to-table community gardening initiative.

Sablan is the second to file his candidacy for the March 23 special election.

Mariano DLG Fajardo, also an independent candidate, was the first to file his candidacy for the vacant seat.

With the passing of representative Francisco D. Dela Cruz last month, a special election will be held on March 23 to fill the vacant seat.

Dela Cruz landed fifth in the November election.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez, an independent, obtained the highest number of votes. Donald Cabrera Barcinas got the seventh position.

Aside from Sablan, Fajardo, and Barcinas, the candidates that did not make it were Vicente Camacho, Luis Tilipao, and Stanley Torres.

Tomorrow, Friday, is the last day of submission of nominating petitions and candidacy.

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Garapan Fishing Dock and Community School beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal

indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

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Five high schools to compete in CNMI mock trial

Five high schools will be competing on March 7 and 8 for the opportunity to represent the Northern Marianas at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Athens, Georgia. This year's champion will compete with over 40 teams at nationals to be held in mid-May.

The schools—Grace Christian Academy, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High School, Saipan International School, and Tinian High School—will face each other in four preliminary rounds, with the top two teams advancing to the championship round before a panel of five jurors.

Kagman High School, Dr. Rita H. Inos High School and Saipan Southern High School

are unrepresented this year.

The case trial problem centers on a fictional child who sustained serious injuries while attending a fictional forensic science camp. A camp counselor led the minor and other students on an off-campus hike to a location the counselor had not previously visited. After becoming lost, the group spent the night on a mountain. In the middle of the night, the minor awoke in a confused state, fell down the mountain and struck his head. As a result, he sustained a spinal cord injury resulting in quadriplegia and a serious concussion leading to long-term impairment. A lawsuit for gross negligence ensued. The forensic camp claims that it was the

minor's own actions—hiding his Type I diabetes from staff, that caused his injuries.

"I was anxious for mock trial to begin again. After the storm, we all wanted to return to normalcy, and not only did mock trial feel normal, it felt like home," said Shea Hartig, a Marianas High School junior who won both best prosecution attorney and best defense attorney in 2018.

Mock trial coordinator

Gretchen Smith said this will be the first year the competition will be held at the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands because of the ongoing renovations of the Superior Court courtrooms in the Guma' Hustisia.

"We thank the U.S. District Court for allowing the preliminary rounds to be held in their building," she said. "Initially, we did not think we would

have any schools interested in participating in mock trial this year. But, once we reached out to the schools, we found out that some wanted to continue with the competition."

Last year's champions, Mount Carmel School, competed in Reno, Nevada and won the distinguished Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award.

The mock trial program,

now in its 21st year, is sponsored by the Judiciary, the Public School System, the CNMI Bar Association and the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society. The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has also provided funding for the local competition.

For more information, contact Smith at nmimocktrial@gmail.com. (PR)

United Airlines introduces upgraded app

TAMUNING, GUAM—United Airlines is introducing a re-imagined mobile app to customers around the world.

Already a top downloaded airline app for Apple and Android phones, the new app now features a more dynamic experience that updates customers at each step of their travel journey, making it the perfect travel companion. The app includes features customers know and love from the previous version, while adding enhancements that make managing travel easier from booking to landing.

"Every day we are using technology to improve our customers' experience and making more information

available to our customers at the swipe of a finger," said Linda Jojo, executive vice president of technology and chief digital officer at United Airlines.

"With this updated app, we set out to bring improvements that are meaningful to all our customers, whether they travel every week or only once a year."

Customers' favorite features, such as bag tracking, will continue to be available in the updated app, and new highlights include:

■ A navigation bar that gives customers quick access to some of the most popular tools such as flight status, and some new handy features like My Trips.

■ A My Trips tab in the navigation bar that allows customers to easily access information about their upcoming trip and stores boarding passes when customers are checked in for their flights.

■ An inbox that stores important push notifications United sends customers about their flight, such as if a flight

status changes, gate changes and alerts about when boarding for a flight has begun.

■ Dynamic boarding times will be updated throughout the app in the event that departure times change to give customers the latest information even when they are not at the gate. This builds on the airline's recent addition of boarding notifications, which were added when United rolled out its Better Boarding process.

One of the biggest updates to the app comes during the travel period, when the home screen updates to give customers the most helpful information for each step of their travel journey. The home screen will begin to update starting 48 hours before a flight, and will continue updating throughout various phases all the way through arrival at the final destination with the most useful information. For instance, customers connecting will find a screen that allows them to easily access airport maps so they can easily navi-

gate to the next gate. Bringing the most useful information to the forefront will make the entire journey less stressful and more intuitive.

The app also includes an updated design with more engaging content. When a customer does not have an upcoming trip, the app will open to a beautiful destination image to provide travel inspiration. Content on the home screen is also more personalized to each user; for example, customers who recently passed loyalty milestones will be recognized on the home screen, and the app will also celebrate customers on their birthday.

United's in-house digital team spent over a year designing and creating this updated app, including eight months during which customers and more than 18,000 employees provided feedback to create the final version that rolls out worldwide today. United issued seven releases during the beta test, making numerous changes based on user feedback. There were more than 13,000 check-ins during the beta test period. The airline will continue soliciting feedback on the app and expects to roll out additional features later this year to further improve and ease travel for our customers.

As a technology leader, United was the first carrier to offer mobile boarding passes and became the first to introduce boarding passes and flight information in its app for partner airlines. Customers can access boarding passes and flight information for flights on United's Star Alliance partner airlines when flights are booked with connecting travel on United on the same itinerary. The airline also made it easier for customers to search for fare classes available in the app with Expert Mode, a popular feature from united.com.

Last year, United updated its digital platforms including the united.com homepage and entire mobile website to make them more dynamic and personalized.

For more information about updates to the app, visit the United Hub. (PR)



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/DPHS-007

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 13, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM


"SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (SBIRT) IMPLEMENTATION"
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-012

ISLAND WIDE WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of installing new service saddles, corporation stops, PVC service lines from the CUC water main to the meter, replacing defective water meters, installing new service laterals and new water meters, properly sizing existing service lines, installing a water meter on existing CUC service lines without a meter, relocating existing CUC water meters from private property to public easement, reconfiguring the orientation of water meters to easily identify customers, removing existing manifold systems, and as required, installing new service lines from the meter to the house plumbing. It may also be required to connect existing service lines to a new meter and/or house piping.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer - via email nicole.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Procurement Administrator



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board Committees on Seaport Facilities and Personnel Affairs will be holding Special Meetings on Friday, February 8, 2019, in the CPA Conference Room located on the second floor of the Captain George Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan on the island of Saipan. Meeting times are shown below.

AGENDAS

Seaport Facilities Committee
9:00 a.m.

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes

B. Public Comments

C. Items:

1. Presentation by WSP
2. Echo Dock
3. Senate Bill 20-103 re: Rota East Harbor
4. Committee Report

D. Executive Session

E. Miscellaneous/Announcements

F. Adjournment

Personnel Affairs Committee
10:30 a.m.

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes

B. Public Comments

C. Items:

1. Grievance
2. Draft Position Description for Secretary/Tariff Technician-Rota
3. Amendments to CPA Personnel Rules and Regulations
4. Committee Report

D. Executive Session

E. Miscellaneous/Announcements

F. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit will be imposed for oral testimony.

A birthday wish in the skies

Hurling through the blue sky early Saturday morning, 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera said she will never forget the exhilaration of a brief free fall during her first tandem jump with Skydive Saipan.

"It was amazing! I can't really put in words, you have to try it for yourself. I saw Saipan in so many new ways, including the swirls of turquoise and dark blue in our ocean! It is an experience like no other and I am so grateful for the chance to do it," said Cabrera.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 18th birthday to our Lea Reian DLC Salalila! May the Lord bless you with more love and happiness today and always. Love always, Mommy, Daddy, Leo, Lenelle, and Leina.



2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera enjoys the breathtaking scenery with Darin Quaile, Skydive Saipan chief tandem and safety examiner, as they glided over Saipan in a parachute last Saturday morning as an early birthday gift. Photo taken by Skydive Saipan and provided by Stellar Marianas. **SKYDIVE SAIPAN**

As a birthday gift to her, Skydive Saipan took Celine for her first tandem jump with Darin Quaile, Skydive Saipan chief tandem and safety ex-

aminer, and the young beauty queen was bubbling with excitement even after she landed safely on the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Air-

port field.

"I touched a cloud! I tried to put in my pocket," she laughed.

Cabrera joined a dozen

other thrill seekers and tourists who were happy to take photos with her as she wore her crown and sash before and after the tandem jump.

Skydive Saipan takes the jump seriously, said Quaile who has done 20,000 jumps in a 20-year career, pointing out that it is a safe and rewarding experience.

"Sharing the incredible experience of first time skydiving with people is extremely rewarding. Skydive Saipan only employs the most experienced and proficient instructors, allowing us to provide the highest possible level of safety," said Quaile. "Skydiving provides a unique perspective to enjoy Saipan's breathtaking scenery and is the closest to experiencing real human flight."

After reviewing safety procedures, Cabrera watched a video for further instructions, pulled a jumpsuit over her outfit, tied her hair and put on the safety goggles for the first few minutes of the dive.

Soon, she joined Quaile who linked his safety harnesses to her and boarded the plane to fly thousands of feet above Saipan.

Right at the airplane door, Cabrera and Quaile were the first out as the other four followed to complete the five-group tandem and were soon gracefully swirling in open parachutes to the field.

"Everyone was so tiny! I could see the gorgeous sunrise, our newly green fields, beautiful ocean, even my house! Being up so high, I could see across to Managaha and to Tinian. Our islands are so beautiful and Saipan Skydive really gives us an opportunity to see it in a bigger, beautiful picture—it is truly an experience not to miss," she said.

For more information on Saipan Skydive, call marketing/accounting manager Michelle Gibson or assistant marketing manager Justin Poon at 288-5869 or to make reservations, call 1-670-488-8888. **(PR)**

500 Sails is planning to sail two of their traditionally designed canoes, *Neni* and *Richard Seman*, to this year's Tinian Pika Festival.

The canoes will leave from the Guma Sakman, where they will be stored, and give rides to Pika Festival attendees.

This will be the second year for 500 Sails to be part of the

500 Sails to join Tinian's Pika Festival

festivities on Tinian. Exact dates and times will be announced later based on weather conditions.

To prepare for the trip, 500 Sails will host open houses on Friday, Feb. 8, and Saturday, Feb. 9, from 1pm to 5pm, at the 500 Sails boatyard in the

old procurement building right next door to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources in Lower Base. This is a chance for the community to come see six canoes at different stages of construction. Stop by and see what 500 Sails has been preparing for the community.

Master navigator and 500 Sails board member, Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, will captain one of the canoes going to Tinian and will be selecting crew from the 500 Sails "Train the Trainers" program and members of the seafaring family here on Saipan.

The construction of *Neni* and *Richard Seman* was made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the Administration for Native Americans, and DLNR.

To learn more about 500 Sails, visit 500sails.org or follow it on Facebook @500Sails-DolphinSwimClub. **(PR)**



Fueling Excellence

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PIC GIFT SHOP - SALES ASSOCIATE

This position is responsible for providing customers with a positive and memorable shopping experience by providing excellent customer service. Applicants must have a minimum of one year of retail sales experience.

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Friday, February 8th, 2019. Applications and resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department via:

Office: Corner Puetto St. and Industrial Drive Commercial Port Saipan, MP 96950

Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com

Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950

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Extra flights, shuttle for Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

Extra flights and ferry transportation between Saipan and Tinian, as well as a free shuttle between the airport, seaport, and festival grounds aim to make the 15th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 16-17 more easily accessible to visitors.

Star Marianas Air, in co-operation with the Marianas Visitors Authority and Tinian Mayor's Office, will extend its normal hours of operation during the festival.

On Feb. 15-Feb. 17, scheduled flights will be extended by three hours, with the last flights leaving Tinian at 9:30pm. Flights will leave Saipan hourly at the top of the hour (starting at 7am) and Tinian hourly at the bottom of the hour (starting at 7:30am).

"We'd like to thank the MVA and Commonwealth Ports Authority for all their efforts to make this event happen and for re-opening the Tinian airport for night operations," said Star Marianas president Shaun Christian. "We hope our neighbors [on] Saipan will take advantage of our extended hours of operation to come for the day and join the community in celebrating something unique to Tinian."

Advanced bookings are accepted for Star Marianas, but travelers can also show up at the airport on Saipan or Tinian and expect to be transported in a timely fashion. To minimize airport waiting times, interested travelers are encouraged to contact Star Marianas Air's reservations team at 433-9996/8 to find out if a particular time of the day is expected to be busier than others. For more information visit www.starmarianasair.com.

The full festival with live entertainment will be from 2pm to 9pm on Feb. 16 and from 10am to 9pm on Feb. 17. Food vendors only will also open at 10am on Feb. 16.

The MVA is also offering ferry service between Tinian and Saipan on Feb. 15-18. The ferry schedule is: Feb. 15, departing Saipan at 5pm and departing Tinian that evening; Feb. 16, departing Saipan at 9am and departing Tinian at 4pm; Feb. 17, de-



File photo shows, from right, Deenalih Crook, Amanda Haas, and a Tinian resident enjoying the 2018 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

parting Saipan at 9am and departing Tinian at 4pm; and Feb. 18, departing Saipan at 8am and departing Tinian at 12pm. The *Super Emerald* ferry will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lower Base. Passengers must check in one hour before departure.

"Although several Tinian hotels are still closed following Super Typhoon Yutu, we know there's still a lot of excitement building for Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, whether it be for a day trip, staying at a hotel, staying with family or friends, camping at the festival site at Kammer Beach," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We sincerely thank our partners at Star Marianas for making it super convenient to attend the festival this year, and we're looking forward to another awesome 'Pika Fest' [on] beautiful Tinian."

Ferry roundtrip cost is \$25 for ages 3-11, \$35 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. For one way, the cost is \$10 for ages 3-11, \$18 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. Ticket purchases may be made at the MVA office on Tinian or Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted.

Individuals arriving via the ferry will be shuttled directly to the festival grounds, and those departing via the ferry can catch the shuttle leaving the festival beginning one and a half hour before ferry depar-

ture time. Individuals arriving or departing at Tinian International Airport can call for a shuttle at 433-3216 or visit the MVA information booth at the festival grounds for assistance.

Activities during the weekend will include live entertainment, a variety of local dishes for sale, indigenous craft sales, and a variety of contests.

On Feb. 16, chefs of all caliber are invited to showcase their skills in the Katdon Pika Cooking Contest at 3pm. Katdun pika is an indigenous Chamorro stew featuring chicken and hot pepper. Cash prizes are \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$75 for third place.

The JC Café Pika Burger Eating Contest at 5pm will challenge competitors to see who can finish the most hot pepper-laced burgers in 30 minutes, with the winner walking away with \$100 cash and a Samsung J6 Pro with three months free service from IT&E.

At 7pm, children ages 12 and under can join the *umang* (hermit crab) race, with the top three finishers receiving MVA giveaways. On the first day of the festival, judging will also take place at 1pm for the best-decorated booth at the festival site at Kammer Beach, with first place winning \$300 cash, second place winning \$200 cash, and third place winning \$100 cash; the three winners will also get a free booth at the 2020 festival.

Contests will continue on Feb. 17 with the judging of the hot pepper *mwar*-making (flower head lei) taking place

at 11am. The first place winner will receive the IT&E phone package.

The Hot Pepper Eating Contest at 1pm will challenge up to five contestants age 18 and older to six rounds of increasingly hot pepper varieties from around the world, including Tinian's famous *donni sali*. If multiple contestants pass all six rounds, the contest resume with more rounds of peppers until only one man or woman is left standing. The winner will receive \$500 cash and the IT&E phone package.

The Pika Wing Eating Contest at 3pm is also for contestants ages 18 and up and will challenge them to see who can eat the most number of wings in 15 minutes. First place wins \$100 cash and the IT&E phone prize package, but anyone who can finish 30 wings in the allotted time will win an increased grand prize of \$500 cash and the phone prize package. If more than one contestant finishes 30 wings in the allotted time, contestants will enter a "sudden death" round; the qualified contestants will each receive 15 minutes to see who can eat the most number of wings. Eventually, only one winner will earn the grand prize of \$500 cash plus the phone prize package, or the \$100 cash prize plus the phone prize package.

Single elimination tug-of-war will start at 5pm, with the winning team of 10 receiving MVA giveaways.

At 7pm, the top three couples in the Cha Cha Dance Off will also receive MVA giveaways.

Contestants can sign up for the contests by visiting the MVA offices on Saipan or Tinian or at the MVA booth at the festival grounds. Contestants will be selected on a first come, first serve basis, so early registration is encouraged.

The 65K Pika Bike Race will be held on Feb. 16 at 6am and will begin and end at the festival site at Kammer Beach. To register for the 65K Pika Bike Race and avail of free ferry on Feb. 15, bikers may contact Alex Gozon at alexgozon@yahoo.com or 234-5416 or Dawn Sarmiento at dawnsarmiento@yahoo.com. Bikers from Saipan who register for the race will be able to travel on the Feb. 15 ferry to Tinian at 5pm.

The event is co-organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office and Tinian Municipal Coun-

cil and sponsored by Bicycling Association of Tinian and MVA members. Campgrounds are open to the public at Kammer Beach, which has restrooms, outdoor showers, and five pavilions with sinks and barbecue grills.

Available hotels on island are Tinian Ocean View and Lorilynn's Hotel.

Air service from Saipan to Tinian is provided by Star Marianas. Airport shuttle will be offered by the MVA to and from the festival site, which will be in San Jose village.

For more information on the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or the MVA Facebook page, call the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365, or email MVA Tinian field supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@my-marianas.com. (MVA)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free probate workshop on Rota today

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be hosting a series of probate workshops. These are intended as community legal education to help people in the CNMI understand the probate process. The first workshop on Rota will be held today, Feb. 7, 2019, at 11am at the Sinapalo Youth Center and will focus on where to start for probate when a loved-one dies. The workshops are free. Call MLSC at 234-7729 for more information. (PR)

PTSA meeting for Kagman schools

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Kagman High School cafeteria. Call the schools at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

USDA RD rep on island today

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development representative will be on island today, Feb. 7, 2019, from 10am to 4:30pm to assist Rural Development clients. If you may have any inquiries regarding the program, stop by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. office in Garapan. (PR)

Military trainings set ASAN, Guam

The U.S. Air Force and Navy will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 9-10, from 5-9pm. It

is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

Emergency power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions today, Feb. 7, 2019, from 2pm to 6pm.

■ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit

■ Village location: As Matuis

■ Area(s) affected: Entire San Roque and As Matuis

■ Water well(s) affected: Marpi Quarry Wells

■ Water Interruption: Entire As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, and Puerto Rico

■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: SR-1, SR-2 and SR-3

■ PoleReplacement(s): Three

The purpose of the emergency power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the CUC contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace wooden poles with concrete poles in As Matuis villages. The emergency power interruption is part of CUC's resiliency program aimed at hardening and strengthening the CUC power distribution system that was affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. (PR)

High surf and high risk for rip currents

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, has advised that there is a high risk of rip currents through Sunday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the NWS and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, an east-northeast swell will continue affecting the Marianas and hazardous surf continues along north

facing reefs. There will still be a high risk of rip currents along north and east facing reefs.

A high surf advisory for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota was in effect until 6 pm last night.

Along north facing reefs, hazardous surf of 6 to 9 feet was expected to fall below advisory levels by early yesterday evening. Rip current risk was high through last night. The Ritidian and Tarague

beaches were at most risk in Guam. Surf of 9 feet was being reported on Saipan.

Along east facing reefs, surf is expected to remain near heights of 8 to 11 feet. This is below hazardous levels but it will maintain a high risk of rip currents all this week.

A high surf advisory means that high surf will affect beaches in the advisory area, producing localized beach

erosion and dangerous swimming conditions.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing near reefs and beaches, especially those facing north and east. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. swim parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. (EOC)

Hawaii: Airbnb has acknowledged hosts not paying all taxes

HONOLULU (AP)—A judge should compel Airbnb to hand over 10 years of receipts and other documents from its hosts to the state of Hawaii in part because the home-sharing platform has acknowledged that the hosts aren't fully complying with state tax laws, a court filing said.

Hawaii's attorney general has asked a judge to allow the state to subpoena Airbnb to help it find which hosts haven't paid the state's equivalent of hotel and sales taxes.

The face-off follows disputes between Airbnb and lo-

Saipan group joins protest vs China 'rescue center'

The Philippine government—and Filipinos—should once and for all send a strong message to China that the West Philippine Sea belongs to the Philippines and it should be respected, said Dr. Celia Lamkin speaking on behalf of the National Youth Movement for West Philippine Sea.

"We join all patriotic Filipinos in protesting the blatant disrespect of our sovereignty and the continued bullying by China despite the July 12, 2016, decision of the UN Arbitral Tribunal that the Philippines has territorial jurisdiction over the West Philippine Sea," Lamkin added.

The NYMWPS, headed by Lamkin as its global chairperson and founder, joins Philippines Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in calling for a protest amidst reports

that China is opening a "maritime rescue center" to supposedly "offer better support to maritime rescue operations in the southern part of the South China Sea."

"We call on the Duterte administration to stop kowtowing to China in the guise of maintaining a favorable diplomatic relations. It is about time that it sends a strong message to China that Panganiban Reef (Mischief Reef), Kagitingan Reef (Fiery Cross), and all those islands that they have built within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone belong to us. The obviously lame and lackadaisical stance of the government despite the massive reclamation and building of military structures in the area is sending a wrong message that the Philippines is consenting to China's intrusion to our sovereign territory," NYMWPS said. **(PR)**



This Oct. 29, 2013 file photo shows people at Lanikai Beach, a popular neighborhood for vacation rentals, in Kailua, Hawaii.

cal governments in other states.

In New York last month, a U.S. judge shelved a city law that would have required home-sharing platforms to reveal hosts' names and other information. New York City established the law so it could crack down on illegal listings and impose fines.

Hawaii needs the court's permission to serve the subpoena because its investigation targets a group of taxpayers, not specific individuals.

A hearing is scheduled before state Circuit Court Judge James Ashford in Honolulu on Thursday.

The state attorney general said in a court filing Monday that Airbnb has acknowledged its hosts haven't all paid taxes, noting the company proposed legislation that would have allowed it to register as a Hawaii tax collection agent to ensure they do. The attorney general said such legislation wouldn't be necessary if

hosts were tax compliant.

In addition, the filing said, Airbnb testified before lawmakers that it would have generated more than \$41 million in new revenue for the state in two years had it been allowed to collect and remit taxes.

Airbnb said in a court filing last week that the subpoena amounted to an unprecedented, "massive intrusion" that violates state and federal law. The company said the request

would cover detailed, private data from about 16,000 people. It said the state failed to show why it should be allowed to "invade the privacy rights of Airbnb and its users on this massive scale."

Hawaii retorted this week that Airbnb hosts have already contractually agreed that the company may disclose their information to government entities. As for the argument that hosts have a constitutional right to keep information regarding their homes private, the attorney general said "the hosts are using their homes as commercial enterprises."

Regarding the New York case, the attorney general said it different from the Hawaii case because it concerned the legality of a city ordinance instead of a subpoena from a tax authority. The New York law sought to require Airbnb to provide monthly reports indefinitely, unlike Hawaii, the state's court filing said.

Hawaii has been trying to make sure vacation rental and bed-and-breakfast operators are paying transient accommodation taxes imposed on rooms or homes rented for less than six months. It also wants to collect the general excise tax — a levy similar to a sales tax — from such operators.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

- Registered Nurses: (09)**
- Must pass NCLEX-RN with current CNMI RN License
 - Attended a hemodialysis training program
 - Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
 - One to two years hemodialysis experience or related field
 - English language skills-proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
 - Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
 - In-service training with Baxter Phoenix machine
 - Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Health Technologists and Technicians: (4)**
- Certificate from Junior College/Technician School in healthcare related field
 - Attended a hemodialysis training program
 - Three years hemodialysis experienced-preferred
 - English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
 - Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
 - Flexible with time schedule
- Maintenance Worker, Machinery: (02)**
- Must be able to perform task which may at first glance not appear difficult but required a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain system
 - Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems
 - Knowledge of the theory fluid dynamics
 - Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems
 - Know the specific operations of the water treatment distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit
 - Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities, safety & life safety policies
 - Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency text for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II
 - Understand the plumbing code and plumbing techniques
 - Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques, proper plumbing techniques when working with pressure vessels
 - Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques especially when working with pvc
 - To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned
- Maintenance and Repair: (04)**
- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks
 - Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing and security systems
 - Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and petitions
 - Installs solar panels with experience in the maintenance of pv models
 - Maintains and repairs various equipment
 - High school graduate or equivalent
- Janitors and Cleaners: (02)**
- Operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, buffers, etc.
 - Maintain facility in a sanitary and infection-free condition through washing, cleaning and replacement of equipment and furnishings
 - Requires working in damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids, as required
 - Responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials
 - Must handle various cleaning solvents and chemicals that is required by Medicare
 - Damp dust furniture, light fixtures, windows, etc.
 - Empty trash containers daily
 - Clean and mop bathrooms daily. Mop all corridor floors, lobby and others floors daily
 - Report any needed repairs immediately
 - Check entire area for spills, water, etc., periodically, especially in patients' areas and lobby
 - Use safety precautions in all housekeeping and post occupancy
 - Is required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner at the business office, Dr.'s office, accounting office, dietician and clinic manager's office
 - Must be able to work flexible hours
 - Must have own transportation

Interested applicant must submit resume or pick up application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc. in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on February 18, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

- Registered Nurse: (03)**
- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN License
 - Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing
 - At least three to six years' experience
 - English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
 - Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Medical Records and Health Information Technician: (01)**
- At least over six years experience in medical billing, electronic health records and practice partner record
 - Must be familiar with medical terminology, ICD 9, coding of medical procedures and diagnosis
 - College graduate
 - English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
 - Must be certified pharmacy technician
 - Must be proficient in computer skills, spreadsheet and general accounting skills.
- Health Technologist and Technician: (02)**
- At least six years experience or related field
 - Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Radiology Technology
 - Must be over six years experience in electronic health and practice partner records
 - Experience/knowledge with practice partner software in electronic health records usage
 - Licensed by Medical Professional Licensing Board, CNMI
- Groundskeeping Worker/General Yard Maintenance: (01)**
- At least two years preferred skills and experience
 - Experience in assisting in building construction/renovation
 - Maintaining the interior and exterior of the clinic in a neat and orderly condition
 - Maintaining of plants in transplanting and fertilizing
 - Assist in cleaning of clinic air conditionings
 - Be flexible in assisting in other related maintenance duties
 - Be flexible with time schedule
- Computer System Analysts: (01)**
- Minimum of three to five years of work related skills, knowledge or experience
 - Bachelor's degree or equivalent
 - Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
 - Maintain all of company computer systems to include computer hardware, software, computer network and advance server skills
 - Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software
 - Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system
 - Building maintenance repair, electronic records and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid standards
 - Performs such other duties as may be assigned

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application or resume will be on February 18, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Be cautious in Afghanistan peace talks with the Taliban

Good news finally has been trickling back from Afghanistan: U.S. and Taliban negotiators may be close to a peace pact in America's longest war. A resolution is long overdue. America invaded in 2001 in response to the 9/11 terror attacks. Afghanistan's Taliban regime had harbored al-Qaida, and the country served as a base for terrorists responsible for the deaths of thousands. The Taliban were routed, and by 2003, then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declared an end to "major combat."

That was almost 16 years ago.

Those years have proven true the warning that Afghanistan always has been a humbler of empires. The Taliban regrouped and fighting continued. Cities were struck with suicide bombings. NATO troops returned to fight in provinces they'd left in triumph. Americans and Afghans alike continue to die.

The U.S. intelligence community's annual threat assessment released last week found a bitter stalemate in the country, with trouble ahead for planned elections. That assessment also indicated that Afghanistan is a crucial crossroads, with larger geopolitical significance given Russia's efforts to play a role in the Afghanistan peace process.

There are no easy answers for Afghanistan. On a shifting battlefield, the Taliban that once sheltered terrorists more recently has clashed with the Islamic State, an enemy the United States has contested elsewhere.

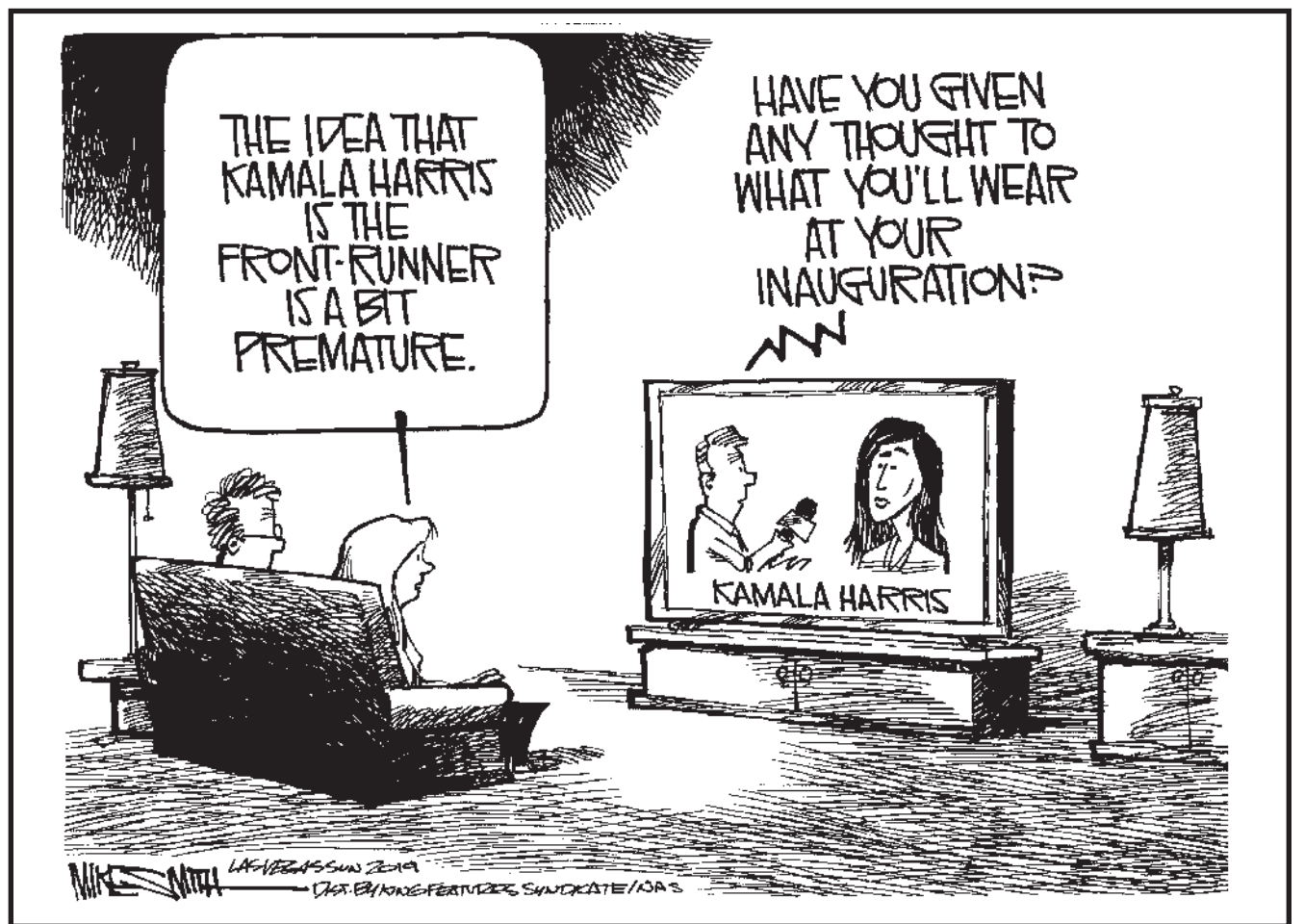
Yet there is a legitimate concern that terror groups could fester again in the country without an American presence. In drafts of a cautious peace pact, the Taliban are said to promise this won't be the case. Enforcement mechanisms on that promise will be key to any deal.

And the deeply patriarchal Taliban regime was a nightmare for Afghan women. The partial liberation of those women has been one of the successes of U.S. and allies' intervention. Women cast ballots in large numbers celebrated by activists and election watchers around the world. The country now even has a national women's soccer team, albeit one with officials accused of sexual abuse. Such tenuous advances show the real challenges ahead with or without American support.

Political consensus on the war and our role in Afghanistan remains complicated. In a bipartisan vote, the Senate rebuked President Donald Trump's effort to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and Syria. Meanwhile, some Democratic presidential candidates found themselves on Trump's side in favor of bringing troops home. That's just the recent state of debate. While caution is warranted, two presidents have now campaigned for and won office on promises to wind down wars that have stretched on for far too long.

Peace and stability must be negotiated, sooner rather than later. The effects of the war reverberate there and here: from the Afghan children maimed and killed by suicide attacks or U.S. and NATO airstrikes, to the families and communities still mourning lost servicemen and women on Long Island and beyond. America cannot remain deeply involved in this country forever.

(c)2019 Newsday



A nuclear first strike should still be an option for America

Democrats in the U.S. House and Senate introduced legislation last week to prevent the U.S. from using nuclear weapons unless first attacked by nuclear weapons from another country. Ideally, the bill will induce a long-needed reconsideration of U.S. nuclear weapons policy—and lead to the conclusion that “The No First Use Act” would hobble U.S. national interests and make the world a more dangerous place.

First, let us assume that the bill, one of whose sponsors is senator and presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren, actually would have binding force in some of the emergency cases where this might be an issue to begin with. Otherwise, it is an empty declaration.

What might be some possible occasions on which the U.S. would entertain a nuclear first strike? Say a president received intelligence reports that the North Koreans were planning either a nuclear attack themselves, or to sell some of their weapons to hostile terrorist groups. Assume also that a direct ground invasion was infeasible (likely) and that bunker-buster bombs would not suffice to take out the regime (also likely). In that situation, the U.S. might well entertain the notion of a limited nuclear strike on North Korea, if only to forestall an even greater catastrophe.

This is not to say that such a strike is actually a good idea, as in the abstract it is impossible to know (intelligence can be wrong, for one thing), and if the U.S. actually carried out the strike, the alternative scenario would never materialize. Still, the possibility of such a strike—even if it is irrational or too destructive—might deter the North Koreans from going down this path to begin with.

Or, if you prefer, take a hypothetical from history. Say Nazi Germany still was fighting World War II when the Manhattan Project succeeded in building a few nuclear bombs. If the Germans were on the verge of getting their own nuclear weapon, would you have wanted America to have the freedom to take out the Nazi bomb?

It is hard to see why the U.S. should voluntarily surrender this capability. And if the fear is a truly rogue American president, that seems to be exactly the case where the law would be ignored and a unilateral attack would proceed anyway.

Maybe you think the bill will limit the risk of a miscalculation. But the most likely scenario for miscalculation is one in which the U.S. has concluded (mistakenly) that another nation has already launched nuclear weapons. The bill would not prevent this scenario.

Countries have different uses for their nuclear weapons. In the case of the hypothetical involving North Korea, for example, few would expect India to have either the desire or the capacity

By TYLER COWEN

Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include *The Complacent Class: The Self-Defeating Quest for the American Dream*.



to solve the North Korea problem. A “no first strike” nuclear policy thus might make sense for India, and indeed the country has adopted a version of such a policy. But as the world's dominant military power, the U.S. is in a fundamentally different position.

Furthermore, how exactly would it be determined that another nation had launched nuclear weapons first? There are plenty of unambiguous cases (e.g., Hiroshima), but also numerous intermediate scenarios requiring judgment. What if a missile is launched and then crashes, without delivering its payload? What if U.S. forces knock out a missile site while a nuclear launch is underway? What if the near future brings very small tactical nuclear weapons, with more discrete impacts than current tactical nukes? What if some other weapon of mass destruction, for example a bioweapon that is far more lethal and dangerous than a nuke, were deployed?

In those cases, does a commander in chief first have to obtain permission from Congress before ordering a nuclear strike? The bill itself is short on details, but a recent and comparable bill stated the logical alternative that a first-use nuclear strike would be prohibited “unless such strike is conducted pursuant to a declaration of war by Congress that expressly authorizes such strike.” What if a devastating cyberattack rendered such a vote impossible? What if a hypersonic nuclear weapon were launched against Washington, giving the president only minutes to make a decision?

This debate is not entirely new. President Barack Obama considered a no-first-use declaration, but it was strenuously opposed by top cabinet officials and U.S. allies in both Asia and Europe. Obama wisely dropped the idea. Nothing in the basic calculus of the situation has changed since then.

The use of nuclear weapons remains the most important issue we face as a civilization. It is thus especially important that U.S. policy both engage with allies and reflect the lessons of game theory and nuclear weapons. Analytically speaking, the No First Use Act is weak. For the U.S., first-strike capability remains a valuable option.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What racist white people can learn from Liam Neeson: Own up to your horribleness

First, we had Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam confessing to being in either blackface or a Ku Klux Klan robe in a photo on his medical school yearbook page. Then he denied doing so, but volunteered that he did slather on some shoe polish to imitate Michael Jackson. Now we have movie star Liam Neeson dropping his bombshell confession that he once wandered the streets, armed with a club, wanting to kill a random black man years ago.

A website's expose forced Northam, 59, to confront his past or, at least, his yearbook version of his past. Neeson, 66, unearthed his past practically unbidden in a 17-minute hotel room interview with writer Clemence Michallon for Britain's Independent newspaper. Neeson is energetically promoting his new film, "Cold Pursuit," a tale about a man seeking revenge for the death of his son at the hands of drug dealers.

On the surface, neither of these anecdotes (and that word seems too lighthearted for all this) seems to have much in common beyond centering on a white man of un certain age who should have known better than to do what he did when he did it. And as reprehensible as costuming yourself in blackface is, it's not as dangerous as hunting for a black man to beat up. But they're both about some unsettling racist urge that seems to be tattooed under the skin of far too many white people in the modern era—and by that I mean by 1984, the year that Northam's yearbook photo came out.

The difference here is that Northam, for all his liberal politics

and his black church-going, has just acted like a dolt trying to explain himself. Neeson, on the other hand, confessed that what he did was horrible. And it was.

The actor brought it up as a cautionary tale about the perils of seeking revenge in real life. Years ago, when a friend told Neeson that she had been raped by a man she did not know, he asked her what race the rapist was and then, filled with rage, he wandered the streets (presumably England or Ireland, but he kept a lot of details out of his story) in search of any black man.

The Independent quotes him saying: "I went up and down areas with a cosh, hoping I'd be approached by somebody—I'm ashamed to say that—and I did it for maybe a week, hoping some ... 'black bastard' would come out of a pub and have a go at me about something, you know? So that I could ... kill him."

He says now that "it was horrible, horrible, when I think back, that I did that." He apparently hurt no one and eventually realized what he was doing was awful. Not that Twitter is giving him much of a pass. Was he moved in the moment of the interview to confess this (as the Independent story suggests)? Or was this a calculating ploy on his part to gin up even more publicity for his new film?

Neeson has become hugely popular as the everyman avenger in a spate of successful action movies, starting 10 years ago with "Taken" and its sequels. He doesn't really need to relate this story to get people into theaters to see it. And he runs the risk that people will be so offended by his story that they won't go see the movie.

By **CARLA HALL**

Los Angeles Times



Was he a racist or just a tightly wound man capable of vindictive violence? Or was he both? Of course, he was a racist. He was roaming the streets trying to find a random black man to kill. And he gave every indication of being capable of violence. That's a pretty explosive combination. And his revelation about himself is deeply disturbing. The question is, how much has he changed since then?

Frankly, I wish he would talk more about what he's learned from this—and whether he's dealt with whatever racism he still harbors. No doubt, he will be given more opportunities to talk about this as he continues his press tour. He should take them. He shouldn't shy away from the subject now. He put this in play. He started a conversation about violence and about racism. The way he conducted himself years ago was despicable. But having a conversation about what he's still learning from his actions is something that could benefit us all.

Why not build the wall (with other people's money)?

We all know the politics of building a great and beautiful wall on our southern border, yeah?

Democrats say nyet. "There is not going to be any wall money," according to House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi.

President Donald Trump says no wall, no deal to keep government open. "If they're not going to give money for the wall," he says, "it's not going to work."

So, money seems key here. More so than, say, moral or practical concerns.

If that's the case, there are alternatives to the stalemate that don't include declaring a national emergency, or—as if!—Mexico paying for the wall.

For example, how about Trump, his fans and multibillionaire pals pay for it?

You want it? You get what you pay for.

A GoFundMe started in December already has \$20 million-plus. That's a start.

Trump's net worth, says Forbes, is \$3.1 billion. Surely, he'd kick in for something. Maybe even a lot if he can put his name on it.

Then he can pinch his uber-rich buddies. There are many. Here are a few.

Vegas casino mogul Sheldon Adelson and wife, Miriam, (net worth \$34.6 billion) spooned out \$20 million for Trump's campaign and \$5 million for Trump's inauguration. Bet they're good for a billion or so.

Wall Street whiz, Trump ally, and former adviser Carl Icahn, whose wife, Gail, was on Trump's inaugural committee, is worth \$17.3 billion. Seems he could help.

And New York Jets owner Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson (\$6.3 billion), heir to the Johnson & Johnson fortune, gave \$1 million to the Trump inaugural, and was appointed U.S. ambassador to the UK. Maybe a thank you gift is in order.

Then Trump can put these pals together with the five billionaires (combined net worth \$33.9 billion) he dined with at his New Jersey golf club last August.

I'm thinking energy tycoon Harold Hamm, real estate giant Richard LeFrak, FedEx founder Fred Smith, New York buddy John Catsimatidis, and Boston Beer king Jim Koch (no relation to the Brothers Koch) can help get to the \$5.7 billion wall



President Donald Trump tours the border wall prototypes near the Otay Mesa Port of Entry in San Diego County, Calif., on March 13, 2018. On Thursday Trump said more troops would be deployed to the border.

K.C. ALFRED/SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

price pronto.

Now the idea of a privately funded wall can get dicey due to land issues related to eminent domain and property rights.

But David Bier, immigration and border security expert at D.C. think-tank Cato Institute, tells me, "I think it could happen ... theoretically, private individuals could buy the property." He also thinks they could pay for the wall "in cooperation with the federal government."

Possible snag? The Department of Homeland Security, which has jurisdiction over border issues, can't accept gifts without congressional approval.

Ah, but if the no-wall argument is we shouldn't waste tax dollars, wouldn't it be politically tough for many Democrats to withhold approval and oppose a privately funded wall?

Plus, anybody can gift the government. Since 1843, the Treasury maintains a "Gifts to the United States" account "for individuals wishing to express their patriotism" (or, one could say, wishing to "Make America Great Again").

And while such gifts are for no-strings, general use, how hard

By **JOHN BAER**

Philly.com



would it be to change that? When it's about the money, as it always is, Congress does what it wants.

And, even if not, it appears there are other ways to fund the wall.

Back in December, a USA Today op-ed piece by Brett Decker, a former Wall Street Journal editor, and James Renne, a national-security lawyer who worked on Trump's transition team, noted the U.S. Department of Agriculture holds \$200 billion in outstanding loans for rural development projects.

The piece argues these loans to local communities have low default rates and provide a steady stream of revenue. Private investors could, with a lump-sum payment to the government, buy rights to collect the debt. That payment could total tens of billions.

Also, the Washington Examiner last week reported on two existing statutes that might allow Trump to build the wall without congressional approval or a national emergency declaration.

One permits the Pentagon to OK a military construction project if the Secretary of Defense deems it "vital to the national security or to the protection of health, safety, or the quality of the environment."

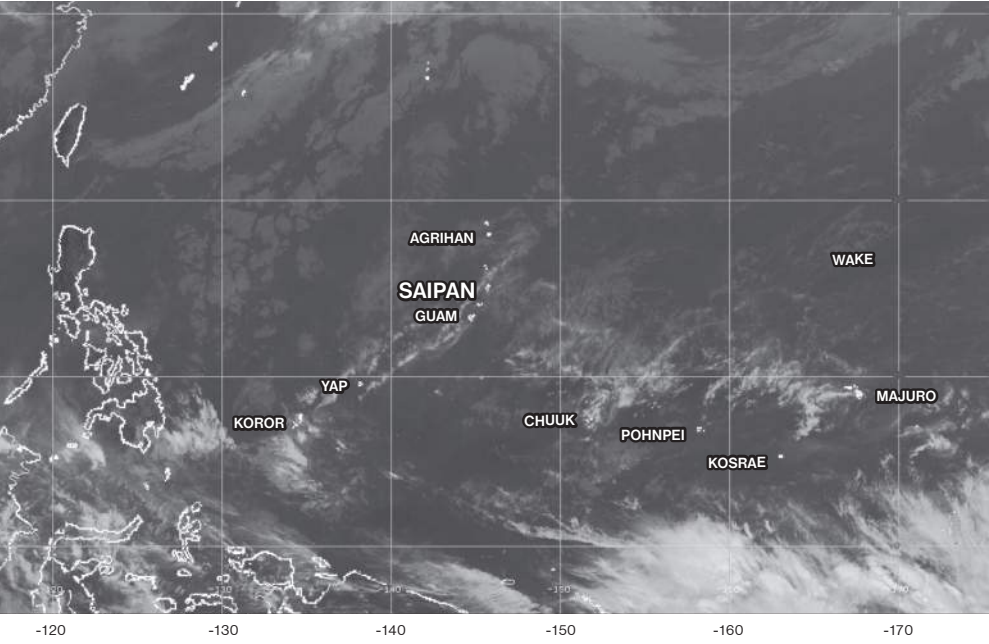
The other allows the military to "block drug smuggling corridors across international boundaries," including through construction of "roads and fences" (maybe big, steel fences?).

The newspaper reports these provisions likely have spending caps around \$1 billion. But if used solely for legal authority, surely GoFundMe, Trump and pals can provide remaining construction costs.

No doubt any outside-the-box effort to build the big, beautiful wall leads to litigation. But those who want it most (not most Americans, according to multiple polls), those who believe its value is worth its price? Let them pay for it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:43 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows only few showers within the Marianas waters, mainly northwest of the islands and moving away. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 18 to 26 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the atmosphere. The balloon released this morning even showed a 29 knots wind. The buoys reveal 7 to 9 foot combined seas from a direction a little north of east. The sea heights likely reach 10 feet in the eastern waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 76°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Showers	84° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Showers	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 64°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	30° / 14°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 68°	
Honolulu	Sunny	80° / 68°	
London	Showers	52° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	62° / 42°	
Manila	Sunny	90° / 72°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	77° / 71°	
New York	Showers	49° / 44°	
Osaka	Cloudy	45° / 36°	
Paris	Showers	48° / 43°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 34°	
Rome	Sunny	57° / 43°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	79° / 53°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	53° / 45°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	34° / 18°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 34°	
Washington, DC	Showers	67° / 61°	

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:20 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.10	
9:58 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86	
3:50 PM	LOW TIDE	0.97	
8:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.79	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:18 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:14 AM	8:11 PM	-
Friday	8:52 AM	8:58 PM	-
Saturday	9:29 AM	9:46 PM	-
Sunday	10:06 AM	10:34 PM	-
Monday	10:44 AM	11:23 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily	
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4		UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1		JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4	
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4		JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6		3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7		MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM		UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM		UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7	
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7		UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7	
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM		UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6	
‘					UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM	
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM		UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Lunar New Year Festival at Paseo a big hit



By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Paseo de Marianas in Garapan was adorned with hundreds of lanterns for the Marianas Lunar New Year 2019 Festival Tuesday night and the large crowd it drew was undeterred by a near-constant drizzle, as they watched the live entertainment and dined on Chinese-inspired meals.

The Chinese Association and the Korean Community of Saipan coordinated with the Marianas Visitors Authority in welcoming the Year of the Pig.

The live entertainment performed by different groups at the stage of the pedestrian mall started at 6pm, with the Chinese Association's lion dance and classical Chinese dances. Local singer James Selepeo closed out the show at 10pm.

MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda, who was happy with the great turnout, said they had a special number from Ayu Shadow, who did a "Chinese yo-yo style kind of performance," then they had the taekwondo martial arts demonstration from the Korean community for an hour.

The Marianas High School's Poksai Chamorro Club also had dance numbers, followed by songs performed by the Laulau Homebrew.

The popular Studio 29:11, which is composed of young dancers, energized the crowd.

The constant drizzle did not dampen the spirit of the audience, who pulled out umbrellas and rain jackets and took refuge under many tents.

Aranda said the Chinese Association and the Korean Community of Saipan

adorned the pedestrian mall with lanterns of different sizes.

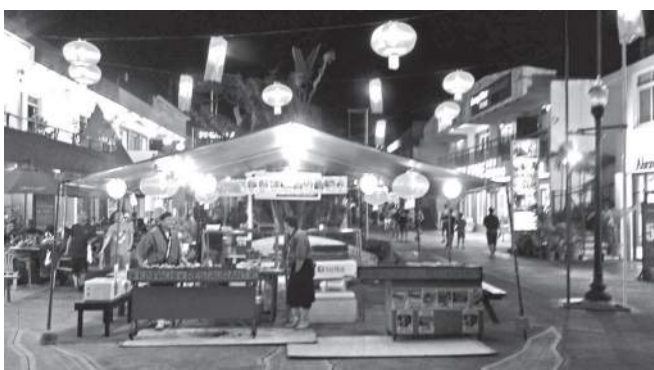
MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion earlier said the Lunar New

Year is a high travel period for CNMI visitors from Asia and they want to make their holiday in the Marianas memorable and festive.



The Marianas Visitors Authority co-sponsored with the Chinese Association and the Korean Community of Saipan the Marianas Lunar New Year 2019 Festival at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan Tuesday night.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE





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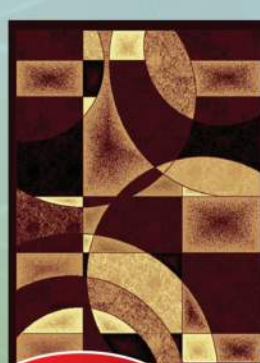
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Business

United to pursue high-fare travelers with more premium seats

United Airlines will woo high-fare passengers by retrofitting more than 100 planes to add more premium seats on key routes.

The airline also plans to start using a new 50-seat jet with mostly premium seats on some key business-travel routes.

United announced the moves Wednesday. They are part of an industry trend to give more space and better service to high-paying passengers who account for a disproportionate share of airline revenue.

Andrew Nocella, the airline's chief commercial officer, said executives decided that United has "a shortage of business-class seats into the premium markets, and this fixed that problem."

Henry Harteveldt, an airline analyst at Atmosphere Research, said United's announcement was a bold challenge to Delta Air Lines, the acknowledged front-runner among the nation's top three



carriers for its on-time performance and strong profit margins.

"This is big news. They are taking direct aim at Delta and its strength with premium travelers," Harteveldt said.

United will retrofit 21 of its Boeing 767-300ER jets start-

ing in the next several weeks. It will reduce seats from 214 to 167 by shrinking the economy section while going from 30 to 46 business-class seats and adding 22 "premium plus" seats. The planes will fly first between United's hub in Newark,

New Jersey, and London.

The airline also plans to add a few more first-class seats to its Airbus A319 and A320 planes. By year end, it hopes to begin flying new 50-seat Bombardier CRJ 550 jets between Chicago and smaller markets with many busi-

In this Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019 file photo, United Airlines jets are seen as a plane approaches Newark Liberty International Airport, in Newark, N.J.

ness travelers, such as Bentonville, Arkansas, the home of Walmart. Federal regulators have not yet certified the plane.

Small, 50-seat planes are notoriously cramped and unpopular with many travelers. Nocella said United's new

small planes — 18 feet (6 meters) longer than the planes it uses now — will have 10 business-class seats, 20 "economy plus" seats and only 20 regular economy seats.

"By making those 50-seat jets more comfortable, United has a good chance of attracting more business and frequent flyers," said Harteveldt, the analyst.

Chicago-based United is the nation's third-biggest airline by revenue, trailing American and Delta. (AP)

A hill of beans: Soybeans upstage trade talks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Soybeans account for less than 1 percent of all the goods and services the United States sells the rest of the world.

But somehow the humble legumes are upstaging weightier, thornier issues as the Trump administration tackles trade disputes with China, the European Union and other trading partners. Critics worry that focusing on getting foreigners to buy soybeans and other U.S. goods is a distraction from pushing them to make deeper economic reforms that would offer longer-lasting benefits to the United States.

The outsize importance of soybeans—mostly used as animal feed but also consumed by humans in everything from General Tso's Tofu to soy lattes—was apparent again recently in two days of U.S.-China trade talks.

The world's two biggest economies didn't make much progress on their differences over the aggressive tactics—including cybertheft—that Beijing is allegedly using to challenge U.S. supremacy in cutting-edge industries like driverless cars and artificial

intelligence.

But to the president's delight, they did agree on one thing: In an unexpected deal that even surprised the top U.S. trade negotiator, China said that it would buy 5 million metric tons of American soybeans over an unspecified period.

"China as a sign of goodwill has agreed to purchase a tremendous, massive amount of soybeans," Trump told reporters.

He said he had consulted with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and learned that "our farmers are extremely happy."

"It's a nice kind of olive branch," said Peter Meyer, head of grain and oilseed analytics at S&P Global Platts.

Soybeans, which accounted for just \$21.5 billion of \$2.4 trillion in U.S. exports in 2017, seem to be punching above their weight in U.S. trade policy.

Farming is one of the few areas in which the United States sells more to the rest of the world than it buys, China included. Powerful lobbies represent American agricultural interests in Washington. And farmers tend to be enthu-

siastic Trump supporters.

The emphasis on soybeans has drawbacks, critics say. In the confrontation with China, for example, it diverts attention from the tough tech issues that divide the world's two biggest economies and may decide whether Beijing or Washington presides over the economy of the future. And it implies that the Chinese might be able to avoid substantive concessions on their economic policies simply by agreeing to buy more American stuff and putting a dent in the massive U.S. trade deficit with China. That amounted to \$336 billion in 2017 and was likely higher last year.

"There's confusion about what the administration's objectives are," said Rufus Yerxa, president of the National Foreign Trade Council and a former U.S. trade official.

In a letter last week, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and fellow Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Sherrod Brown of Ohio warned Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin that any deal with China should force Beijing

to end the abusive practices that put U.S. tech firms at a competitive disadvantage and to enact fundamental economic reforms that would make the Chinese market more accessible to U.S. and other foreign firms.

An agreement that settles for Chinese purchases of American goods, intended to narrow the trade deficit, would be viewed on Capitol Hill as "an abject failure," they wrote.

Soybeans have taken a prominent place in previous Trump administration trade talks. The United States and the European Union at least temporarily backed away from a potential trade war over cars last July when the Europeans agreed, among other things, to load up on American soybeans.

America's trading partners are well aware of the outsize influence farmers enjoy in Washington. When Trump last year started slapping import taxes on Chinese goods and on foreign steel and aluminum, they targeted their retaliation on the American Heartland, imposing tariffs on soybeans and other farm products.

Lunar New Year allows American companies to find prosperity too

As Asian-Americans across the U.S. mark the Lunar New Year on Tuesday, they can celebrate by eating Mickey Mouse-shaped tofu, sporting a pair of Year of the Pig-inspired Nike shoes and by snacking on pricey cupcakes.

The delicacies and traditions that once made a generation of Asian-Americans feel foreign are now fodder for merchandizing. Between now and Feb. 17, Disney California Adventure Park is offering "Asian eats" that include the Mickey-shaped tofu and purple yam macarons. Nike is issuing a limited-edition Chinese New Year collection of shoes with traditional Chinese patchwork. And housewares giant Williams Sonoma has a slew of Lunar New Year dishware and its website offers a set of nine "Year of the Pig" cupcakes for \$80.

Robert Passikoff, a marketing consultant and founder of Brand Keys Inc., said there's been a "reawakening" in the last few years of the United States' world view of China. But it's also about differentiating your business and growing revenue, not necessarily inclusion.

"They're not there as social workers to create harmony among the disenfranchised people," Passikoff said. "The other side is brands are all looking for a niche, they're all looking for some way to engage customers. And if the Lunar New Year will do it, why not?"

Chinese fast-food chain Panda Express funded a New Year's-themed interactive exhibit inside a Los Angeles mall. "The House of Good Fortune: A Lunar New Year," includes different rooms showcasing customs, like a room of "flying" red envelopes and a "hall of long noodles," a customary dish that symbolizes long life.

"Crazy Rich Asians" cast member Harry Shum Jr. promoted the exhibit and brushed off those who may scoff at the company's efforts.

"I think it's good to be reminded of these traditions. It's been so important for many generations before us to try and pass that on and also experience it in a new way," Shum said.

Andrea Cherng, the Panda Restaurant Group's chief marketing officer and the daughter of Chinese-American founders Andrew and Peggy Cherng, said she knows some Asian-Americans will roll their eyes.

"Now the reality about Panda is that we were many people's first Chinese experience in the U.S.," Cherng said. "But then what a fantastic opportunity for us to be able to bridge cultures and bring to them our interpretation of what's so special about this holiday."

Christopher Tai, 37, of San Francisco, recently bought a Golden State Warriors jersey specially made for the Lunar New Year as a gift for his girlfriend's father. The design includes the Chinese character for "warrior." He said the jersey shows an effort at inclusion.

<div>STOCK PORTFOLIO</div> <div></div>	LEADING INDICATORS			EXCHANGE RATES		Hong Kong Dollar 7.8454		Russian Ruble 65.5120	
	DOW 25,411.52 +172.15 +0.68%	S&P 2,737.70 +12.83 +0.47%	NASDAQ 7,402.08 +54.55 +0.74%	Australian Dollar 1.3979	Indian Rupee 70.8365	Japanese Yen 109.7270	Singapore Dollar 1.3525	South Korean Won 1099.17	Swiss Franc 0.9992
				British Pound 0.7714	Malaysian Ringgit 4.0335	New Zealand Dollar 1.4564	Taiwan Dollar 30.2453	Thailand Baht 31.2065	
				Canadian Dollar 1.3147	Chinese Yuan 6.6245	Philippine Peso 51.2813			
				Euro 0.8772					

Nation

In SOTU address, Trump calls for end of resistance politics

WASHINGTON (AP)—Face to face with emboldened Democrats, President Donald Trump on Tuesday called on Washington to cast aside “revenge, resistance and retribution” and end “ridiculous partisan investigations” in a State of the Union address delivered at a vulnerable moment for his presidency.

Trump appealed for bipartisanship but refused to yield on the hard-line immigration policies that have infuriated Democrats and forced the recent government shutdown. He renewed his call for a border wall and cast illegal immigration as a threat to Americans’ safety and economic security.

Trump accepted no blame for his role in cultivating the rancorous atmosphere in the nation’s capital, and he didn’t outline a clear path for collaborating with Democrats who are

eager to block his agenda. Their opposition was on vivid display as Democratic congresswomen in the audience formed a sea of white in a nod to early 20th-century suffragettes.

Trump is staring down a two-year stretch that will determine whether he is re-elected or leaves office in defeat. His speech sought to shore up Republican support that had eroded slightly during the recent government shutdown and previewed a fresh defense against Democrats as they ready a round of investigations into every aspect of his administration.

“If there is going to be peace and legislation, there cannot be war and investigation,” he declared. Lawmakers in the cavernous House chamber sat largely silent.

Looming over the president’s address was a fast-

approaching Feb. 15 deadline to fund the government and avoid another shutdown. Democrats have refused to acquiesce to his demands for a border wall, and Republicans are increasingly unwilling to shut down the government to help him fulfill his signature campaign pledge. Nor does the GOP support the president’s plan to declare a national emergency if Congress won’t fund the wall.

Wary of publicly highlighting those intraparty divisions,

Trump made no mention of an emergency declaration in his remarks. He did offer a lengthy defense of his call for a border wall, declaring: “I will build it.” But he delivered no ultimatums about what it would take for him to sign legislation to keep the government open.

“I am asking you to defend our very dangerous southern border out of love and devotion to our fellow citizens and to our country,” he said, painting a dark and foreboding picture

of the risks posed to Americans by illegal immigration.

The 72-year-old Trump harkened back to moments of American greatness, celebrating the moon landing as astronaut Buzz Aldrin looked on from the audience and heralding the liberation of Europe from the Nazis. He led the House chamber in singing happy birthday to a Holocaust survivor sitting with first lady Melania Trump.

“Together, we represent the most extraordinary nation in

all of history. What will we do with this moment? How will we be remembered?” Trump said.

The president ticked through a litany of issues with crossover appeal, including boosting infrastructure, lowering prescription drug costs and combating childhood cancer. But he also appealed to his political base, both with his harsh rhetoric on immigration and a call for Congress to pass legislation to prohibit the “late-term abortion of children.”



President Donald Trump turns to House speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., as he delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, as Vice President Mike Pence watches, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Pilot in fatal California crash had fake records

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man piloting a small plane that broke apart over a Southern California neighborhood had false credentials identifying him as a retired Chicago police officer, authorities said Tuesday. Antonio Pastini was killed when the twin-engine plane broke up shortly after takeoff and fell in pieces in Yorba Linda, igniting a fire in a home where four people died on Sunday. The cause of the crash has not been determined. Pastini, 75, was initially identified as a retired officer but Chicago police said there were no records of him working for the department. The credentials found at the crash site included false retirement papers and a police badge bearing the same number as a badge reported lost in 1978, Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in an email to The Associated Press. Orange County sheriff’s spokeswoman Carrie Braun said the credentials were not legitimate but the pilot was indeed Pastini. The victims inside the home have yet to be publicly identified.

Police: Woman’s body found in suitcase alongside road

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP)—Police say the body of a young woman was found bound inside a suitcase left alongside a road in an affluent Connecticut

town. Greenwich police say highway workers discovered the body Tuesday morning. Authorities say they determined the victim was a woman between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, though she has not yet been identified. Police say they have information that may help them identify the victim. The case is being investigated as a homicide. Authorities say the woman was killed in a different location, and then moved to where she was found.

St. Louis Zoo reports 11 animal births in 10 weeks

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The St. Louis Zoo welcomed a baby boom in recent weeks. Zoo officials announced Tuesday that 11 calves of ungulates—or hooved mammals—were born in a recent 10-week period. The new animals include three Speke’s gazelles, two addaxes, a Soemmerring’s gazelle, a Grevy’s zebra, two lesser kudus and two lowland nyalas. They were all born between Nov. 20 and Jan. 30. Zoo officials say all the animals are healthy and bonding with their mothers. The baby zebra, named Nova, can be seen in their habitat if the weather cooperates. The others are being kept behind the scenes for now. The births were recommended by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plans, which tries to keep zoo populations of the animals genetically healthy.

Virginia’s highest office frozen as Northam weighs next move

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam’s office put much of the business of governing on hold Tuesday as the Democrat privately weighed whether he can stay in the job despite the uproar over a racist photo on his 1984 medical school yearbook page.

While Northam himself gave no public indication of which way he was leaning, a close friend, Republican state Sen. Richard Stuart, said he is convinced the governor won’t resign. He said Northam told him he felt a responsibility to stay in office and make amends.

Northam was conferring with top advisers about whether he can govern effectively in light of the turmoil over the photo, which depicts someone in blackface standing next to another person in a Ku Klux Klan hood and robe. The picture, which surfaced Friday, set off a barrage of calls from his own party for his resignation.

In the meantime, negotiations between the governor’s office and the Republicans who run the legislature were suspended on what was otherwise one of the busiest days on the legislative calendar. Northam wasn’t making any of the public appearances he does almost every weekday. The regular economic development announcement emails have stopped.

With uncertainty hanging over state government, former allies were growing impatient.

State Sen. Louise Lucas, a prominent African-American lawmaker who has pressed for Northam to step down, said the governor doesn’t need to take a few more days to make up his mind.

“I am so praying that he will do that and get it behind us,” Lucas said. “What’s a little bit more of time going to do for us?”

In another sign of the difficulty he faces in carrying out his duties, Northam issued a state-

ment Tuesday offering condolences on the killing of a state trooper in a shootout, only to be met with a flurry of Twitter comments urging him to resign.

Stuart, a GOP conservative who gave a floor speech honoring the life of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee earlier this year, said he spoke to Northam on Tuesday.

“No question in my mind,” said Stuart, who came into the Senate with Northam in 2008 and has gone fishing with him. “I firmly believe he is going to do what is right and face this head-on.”

Northam’s office is in the middle of negotiations with the legislature over a major tax overhaul and changes to the state budget. Tuesday was “crossover day,” when the House and Senate must finish bills to send to the other chamber.

The crisis deepened when the man next in line to be governor, Democratic Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, was confronted

with an uncorroborated allegation of sexual misconduct first reported by a conservative website. Fairfax denied the allegation Monday and called it a political smear, saying the 2004 encounter with a woman was consensual.

The woman has retained Washington law firm Katz Marshall & Banks and is consulting with it about her next steps, said a person close to the legal team who was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

One of the firm’s founding partners, Debra Katz, represented Christine Blasey Ford, who accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her decades ago when they were teenagers. Kavanaugh denied the allegation and was confirmed to the court.

The Associated Press is not reporting the details of the Fairfax accusation because AP has not been able to corroborate it.

Asia

Third of Himalayan glaciers can no longer be saved: study

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—One-third of Himalayan glaciers will melt by the end of the century due to climate change, threatening water sources for 1.9 billion people, even if current efforts to reduce climate change succeed, an assessment warns.

If global efforts to curb climate change fail, the impact could be far worse: a loss of two-thirds of the region's glaciers by 2100, said the Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment released Monday by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

"Global warming is on track to transform the frigid, glacier-covered mountain peaks of the Hindu Kush Himalayas cutting across eight countries to bare rocks in a little less than a century," said Philippus Wester of the center, who led the report.

The five-year study looked at the effects of climate change on a region that cuts across Asia through Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The area, which includes the world's tallest mountain peaks, has glaciers that feed into river systems including the Indus, Ganges, Yangtze, Irrawaddy and Mekong.

The assessment said that the



AP
In this Monday, Feb. 22, 2016 file photo, trekkers pass through a glacier at the Mount Everest base camp, Nepal.

impact of the melting could range from flooding from the increased runoff to increased air pollution from black carbon and dust deposited on the glaciers.

Saleemul Huq, director of the International Center for Climate Change and Development, an environmental

research center in Dhaka, described the findings of the report as "very alarming," especially for downstream nations such as Bangladesh.

"All the countries affected need to prioritize tackling this upcoming problem before it reaches crisis proportions," he said in an email.

Huq was one of the study's external reviewers.

The study said that even if the most ambitious Paris climate accord goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century were met, more than a third of

the region's glaciers will be lost. If the global rise in temperature were 2 C (3.6 F), two-thirds of Himalayan glaciers will melt, it said.

The 2015 Paris Agreement was a landmark moment in international diplomacy, bringing together governments with

vastly different views to tackle global warming. It set a headline target of keeping average global temperatures from rising by more than 2 C, or 1.5 C if possible.

According to a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, emissions of the most abundant greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, would need to be reduced to a level the planet can absorb — known as net zero — by 2050 to keep global warming at 1.5 C as envisaged in the agreement.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development said the study included work by more than 350 researchers and policy experts from 22 countries. It said it had 210 authors and 125 external reviewers.

The Kathmandu-based center said it receives donations from regional countries, non-regional countries such as Australia, Austria, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and other international programs such as USAID.

UN experts: North Korea nukes intact, dispersing missiles

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs "remain intact" and its leaders are dispersing missile assembly and testing facilities to prevent "decapitation" strikes, U.N. experts said in a new report.

The experts' report to the Security Council, seen Tuesday by The Associated Press, says the country continues to defy U.N. economic sanctions, including through "a massive increase in illegal ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products and coal."

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea—the country's official name—also continues to violate an arms embargo, a ban on luxury goods and financial sanctions, the experts said.

And the panel said it investigated "the DPRK's sophisticated cyberattacks" against multiple countries "to evade financial sanctions."

The report was sent to council members as U.S. President Donald Trump is preparing for a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. At their June summit in Singapore, Trump promised "security guarantees" to Pyongyang

and Kim recommitted to the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

But there were no signs in the experts' report that Kim has taken any steps toward eliminating his nuclear arsenal or intercontinental ballistic missiles, which he boasted could reach the U.S. mainland.

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs remain intact," the experts said.

"The panel found that the DPRK is using civilian facilities, including airports, for ballistic missile assembly and testing with the goal of effectively preventing 'decapitation' strikes," the report said. It also "found evidence of a consistent trend on the part of the DPRK to disperse the assembly, storage and testing locations."

The experts said they are continuing to investigate companies, entities and individuals in Asia that are on the U.N. sanctions blacklist and "clandestinely procured centrifuges for the DPRK's nuclear program"—and that attempted to sell "a wide range of military equipment to armed groups

and governments in the Middle East and Africa."

The panel painted a picture of continuing wide-ranging efforts by North Korea to evade U.N. sanctions.

A huge increase in ship-to-ship transfers "render the latest United Nations sanctions ineffective by flouting the caps on the DPRK's import of petroleum products and crude oil as well as the coal ban imposed in 2017 by the Security Council in response to the DPRK's unprecedented nuclear and ballistic missile testing," the experts said.

One unnamed country said North Korea obtained more than the cap of 500,000 barrels of refined petroleum products in 2018, but another unnamed country questioned the figure, the experts said.

They also said that "global banks and insurance companies continue to unwittingly facilitate payments and provide coverage for vessels involved in ever-larger, multimillion-dollar, illegal ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products, as well as an increasing number of ship-to-ship coal transfers and attempted trans-shipments."

Vietnam site for 2nd Trump-Kim summit may bring wins for all

BANGKOK (AP)—Vietnam's selection as the venue for the second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is largely a matter of convenience and security, but not without bigger stakes.

Washington's goal for the talks Feb. 27-28 is for North Korea to agree give up its nuclear weapons. North Korea frames the issue more broadly, seeking a removal of the "nuclear threat" from U.S. military forces in South Korea.

Host Vietnam hopes to boost its diplomatic leverage against its powerful neighbor, China, which contests waters in the South China Sea claimed by Hanoi.

But Vietnam's history as a U.S. adversary that transitioned on its own terms to a dynamic free-market economy under a communist political system suggests a larger meaning for the summit.

"By choosing Vietnam, the two leaders send a strong strategic message to the world that they are willing to make a breakthrough decision to turn an enemy into a friend and together make the

world a better place, following the example of the U.S.-Vietnam relationship," said Le Hong Hiep, a research fellow at the ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

A FRESH, SECURE STAGE

America's past military involvement in Vietnam, whether it's seen as tragic or noble, provides a historically dramatic stage for Trump to again draw attention to his foreign policy accomplishments.

As a single-party communist state, Vietnam boasts tight political control and an efficient security apparatus, and successfully hosted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings in 2017, and the regional edition of the high-powered World Economic Forum last year, both in the central coastal city of Danang.

"Like Singapore, where they met last time, Vietnam is a very secure place," said Murray Hiebert, senior associate of the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"Vietnam's security police are able to keep away crowds of the curious and keep journalists in designated areas."

Trump's attendance at the 2017 APEC meeting means "he's familiar with the country and has good rapport with its leaders," Hiebert said.

COMMUNIST TIES

This is friendly turf for Kim. Even though North Korea has remained mired in Cold War isolation while Vietnam's postwar path led toward integration with the globalized economy, the two communist countries share a history of anti-imperialist struggle and ambivalent relations with common neighbor China.

"Vietnam and North Korea have long had fraternal communist ties, so North Korea is familiar with the country and its officials. North Korea would also feel confident that Vietnam's security apparatus could secure Kim's protection," Hiebert said.

There's also the bonus that a flight from Pyongyang to a meeting in Vietnam is roughly two-thirds of the six-hour flying time to Singapore, and none of it over hostile territory.

World

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP)—Pope Francis on Tuesday publicly acknowledged the scandal of priests and bishops sexually abusing nuns and vowed to do more to fight the problem, the latest sign that there is no

end in sight to the Catholic Church's abuse crisis—and that it now has a reckoning from the #MeToo movement.

Francis admitted to the problem for the first time in public during a news conference while returning to Rome from the United Arab Emirates. The acknowledgment comes just two weeks before he hosts an unprecedented gathering of bishops to craft a global response to the scandal of

priestly predators who target children and the superiors who covered up the crimes.

Francis was asked about priests who target adult women—the religious sisters who are the backbone of the Catholic Church's education, health care and social service ministries around the globe—and whether the Holy See might consider a similar universal approach to combat that issue.

"It's not that everyone does this, but there have been priests and bishops who have," Francis told reporters. "And I think that it's continuing because it's not like once you realize it that it stops. It continues. And for some time we've been working on it."

"Should we do something more? Yes. Is there the will? Yes. But it's a path that we have already begun,"

Francis said.

The issue has come to the fore amid the Catholic Church's overall reckoning with the sexual abuse of minors and the #MeToo-inspired acknowledgement that adults can be victims of abuse whenever there is an imbalance of power in a relationship. In the past year, The Associated Press and other media have reported on cases of abused nuns in India, Africa, Europe and South America—evidence that the problem is by no means limited to a certain geographic area.

In November, the organization representing all the world's female Catholic religious orders, the International Union of Superiors General, publicly denounced the "culture of silence and

secrecy" that prevented nuns from speaking out and urged sisters to report abuse to their superiors and police. And just last week, the women's magazine of the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano identified the clerical culture of the all-powerful clergy as the culprit.

The magazine, "Women Church World," noted that the scandal involves a corollary: nuns being forced to abort the priests' children or bear children that the priests refuse to recognize.

Francis' acknowledgement of the problem comes as he prepares to decide the fate of the disgraced American ex-cardinal, Theodore McCarrick, who is accused of abusing minors

as well as adult seminarians. That case also cast a spotlight on the issue of abusive power relationships, and whether the Catholic Church ought to consider seminarians and sisters as "vulnerable adults" when compared to the priests and bishops who control everything from their vocations to their studies and salaries.

Francis noted that Pope Benedict XVI had taken action against a France-based order that admitted the priest who founded it had violated his chastity vows with his female recruits. Francis said the sisters had been reduced to "sexual slavery" at the hands of the Rev. Marie-Dominique Philippe and other priests.



Pope publicly acknowledges clergy sexual abuse of nuns

AP
Pope Francis blesses a boy during a Mass at the Sheikh Zayed Sports City in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.

Apartment inferno kills 10; deadliest Paris fire since 2005

PARIS (AP)—Paris' deadliest fire in over a decade killed at least 10 people Tuesday as flames engulfed a nine-story apartment building, sending residents to the roof and clambering across balconies to escape.

A 40-year-old woman who lived in the building, said to have a history of psychiatric problems, was arrested nearby and held on suspicion of having set the fire not long before. French police opened a criminal investigation for voluntary arson resulting in death.

Multiple neighbors said they heard the suspect and her neighbor, an off-duty firefighter, arguing over the woman's music before the fire broke out.

Police responding to the dispute stopped by the woman's

apartment. The firefighter and his girlfriend told officers they were leaving to sleep elsewhere in peace and thought the neighbor had lost her mind and one day there would be an accident because of her, according to a police report seen by The Associated Press.

In an interview with Le Parisien newspaper, the 22-year-old firefighter said he returned to the building a few minutes later, shortly after midnight, hoping the woman had gone. Instead, he ran into her in the stairwell, which was already beginning to smell of smoke.

"She wished me good luck, telling me that I loved flames," he recalled in the interview.

Another resident later told him the woman put paper and wood in front of his apartment door, the firefighter told

Le Parisien, which did not give his name.

Survivors described a chaos of smoke and flames, and the young firefighter said he ran upstairs to try and evacuate the building. One neighbor recalled clambering out of her eighth-floor apartment and over balconies to reach safety.

"I climbed across several balconies, with nothing beneath, and then was backed into a corner. There were people climbing hand-over-hand to get to where I was and escape the flames," said a resident identified only as Claire, her eyes wide with shock soon after her rescue.

Another resident, an off-duty police officer, threw on clothes and rang doorbell after doorbell, trying desperately to alert his neighbors.

Venezuela's dueling political movements each push elections

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's opposition-dominated congress on Tuesday said it will hold new elections as soon as possible within a year—once embattled President Nicolas Maduro is ousted from power.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's socialist party boss, Diosdado Cabello, threatened to hold early legislative elections that could gut the congress, which is the only branch of government controlled by the opposition. He accused the opposition of taking orders from the United States.

"We won't skip a beat," Cabello said. "We have no doubt that the imperialism governs the Venezuelan right wing."

The struggle for power in Venezuela resurged this year when congress leader Juan

Guaido declared himself interim president, saying Maduro's re-election in May was fraudulent.

Tacitly acknowledging that it has no real power, the congress extended a 30-day constitutional timeline for replacing the president, saying it is critical to first fill other key branches, like the government-stacked elections commission.

Dozens of countries, including the United States and most of the European Union, have recognized Guaido as Venezuela's interim president, arguing that Maduro's re-election was invalid because his strongest opponents were barred from running.

Maduro, too, has international backing, while holding practical control over the crisis-wracked nation's insti-

tutions, including the military.

The United States is gearing up to provide emergency food and medicine to Venezuela, working with Guaido's opposition movement over Maduro's objections.

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Tuesday that he met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Ernesto Araujo at the White House to discuss the best ways both countries can support Guaido.

Bolton said among the topics was logistics for providing humanitarian assistance to Venezuela, which is suffering from hyperinflation and severe food and medicine shortages that the U.N. says have driven more than 2 million people to flee the country the past two years.

Environment



Decade of heavy storms has helped Northwest glaciers, but don't expect that to last, studies show

TNS
The summit of Mount Rainier, blanketed with cloud cover, as seen from the top of Mount St. Helens.

By EVAN BUSH
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—Glaciers in western North America over the past 18 years have lost some 117 gigatons of ice — enough that if it was melted and spread across the state of Washington it would come up our knees, said David Shean, co-author of a recent study cataloging glacial loss.

“It would be about 2 feet deep,” said Shean, a University of Washington professor of civil and environmental engineering. (A gigaton is 1 billion tons.)

Glaciers are flowing rivers of ice that survive summer’s heat, feed mountain streams with nearly ice-cold water for salmon, provide drinking water downstream and twirl hydropower turbines, generating electricity in the Northwest and elsewhere.

Understanding how glaciers are shrinking and the speed of that process could help predict local effects of climate change, and how these masses of ice are interacting with a warming world. This study and others suggest the melting of Northwest

glaciers could intensify, as long-term weather patterns shift.

During the 18-year period of study, the glaciers that Shean and other scientists examined were responsible for nearly one-third of a millimeter of global sea level rise, according to the paper, which was published in *Geophysical Research Letters* earlier this month.

Shean’s team used new satellite imaging data and technology to measure the surface elevations of almost every glacier in western North America, excluding those in Alaska.

This kind of comprehensive inventory has never been done for the region before, Shean said.

Satellites took photos of glaciers from two different angles, he said. Software analyzed and combined those photos to create high-resolution topographic maps of each glacier. For many of the glaciers, scientists ended up with dozens of image sets. Some of the satellite photos were precise enough to visualize individual crevasses, Shean said, with each pixel representing a square foot of ice.

After all the data was collected, the scientists used a supercomputer to analyze changes to glacial mass over nearly two decades.

Warming temperatures have been shrinking glaciers in North America for several lifetimes. But this new data reveals the importance of vari-

ability in long-term patterns in the atmosphere during that process.

Almost every glacial region lost ice over the 18-year research period, according to the study, yet the scientists found that yearslong patterns of heavy moisture and storms can stave off glacial loss or even restore glacial ice and raise its surface height.

It all depends on winds blowing from the Pacific Ocean, the same atmospheric forces “pushing these low-pressure systems, these storms, that dump huge amounts of rain on Seattle” and into the Cascade Mountains, Shean said.

The research paper calls these high-elevation wind events “decadal scale changes in atmospheric circulation.” Shean compares them to a fire hose, launching moisture from the Pacific Ocean, that either aims toward the Pacific Northwest or further north in Canada. For glaciers, when it’s cold enough, these precipitation systems supply replenishing snowfall.

The paper split its 18 years of data into two periods: One from 2000-2009, and another 2009-2018. In general, when that stormy flow came in their direction, glaciers better maintained or — rarely — even grew their mass.

“For one decade you get the fire hose pointed at Mount Rainier and you get a lot of precipitation. And then another decade, when it’s pointed north, you get substantial losses,”

Shean said.

During the early period of study, Cascade glaciers shrank substantially. Over the next nine years, heavy precipitation helped places like Mount Rainier interrupt glacial loss and in some areas make nominal gains.

In a separate study, another group of scientists, including a UW researcher, examined the phenomenon of natural variability on snowpack. They used 35 years of data from the SNOTEL network, made up of hundreds of automated snow-measurement stations high in the mountains.

That study, published recently in *Geophysical Research Letters*, suggests that a pattern of increasing moisture flowing from the Pacific between 1984 and 2018 has largely masked the effects of climate change on snowpack in the Pacific Northwest.

“There have been changes in the atmospheric circulation that have brought more moisture into the western U.S., and particularly the Pacific Northwest, that has offset much of the decrease of snowpack,” said Nick Siler, an assistant professor of atmospheric science at Oregon State University and the report’s lead author. “Climate models don’t simulate anything like these changes we’ve seen over the last 35 years.”

In other words, the fire hose has been aimed at the Pacific North-

west more often than expected in recent years. At some point, the researchers predict the long spell of moist offshore flow will subside or even reverse.

“We’re, at least, very unlikely to see that trend continue,” Siler said. “The climate-change signal masked over the last 35 years will become more clear.”

As temperatures warm, a long pattern of drier weather could lead to shallower snowpacks and increasing glacial melt, which could impact Northwest water supplies, threaten more fish and affect hydropower generation.

The two research papers, by separate groups of scientists analyzing different climate signals and using unrelated data — including measurements from both space and from on the ground — came to largely the same conclusion. Shean, who reviewed the research of Siler and others, said both research groups observed the same phenomenon of variability.

What happens next could reconfigure Northwest mountains.

“In the last few decades, it’s been pretty good for the glaciers in Washington and Oregon, because they got more snow. They’ve lost less mass,” Shean said. In coming decades, when precipitation moves elsewhere, “We may see our glaciers here in Washington really start to decline.”

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

ABC's 'Modern Family' to end next year after 11 seasons

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—ABC's "Modern Family," the five-time Emmy Award winner for best comedy, will end its run next year after 11 seasons. ABC Entertainment President Karey Burke announced the end of the series about the boisterous extended family on Tuesday. It will finish three seasons short of the longest-running sitcom ever, "The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet." The series produced by Christopher Lloyd and Steve Levitan was an immediate hit after its debut in September 2009. It began a five-year streak of winning the Emmy for best comedy a year later. Actors Ty Burrell, Julie Bowen and Eric Stonestreet each won two Emmys. It's currently seen by nearly 5 million viewers a week.

Marcia Clark tells familiar tale in new show 'The Fix'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Marcia Clark insists she's not reliving her post-O.J. Simpson trial life in the new series "The Fix." Clark co-created the ABC show about a character that viewers who followed the Simpson saga will recognize. Robin Tunney stars as a Los Angeles district attorney whose failed prosecution of a famous movie star on trial for double murder derails her career. Eight years after the first trial, the actor comes under suspicion for another murder and Tunney's character seeks the justice that first eluded her. Clark told a TV critics' meeting on Tuesday that the show's first five minutes draws on what she went through during

the Simpson trial. After that, she says the story is complete fiction. The series debuting March 18 will focus on a single case over 10 episodes.

Beto O'Rourke says he'll decide on 2020 run by month's end

NEW YORK (AP)—Breaking months of near-silence about his political future, Democrat Beto O'Rourke said Tuesday that he would announce his decision about a 2020 presidential run "before the end of the month" and suggested he's leaning toward it. The former Texas congressman, who found political stardom in his unsuccessful Senate bid last fall, opened up about a potential 2020 run in a conversation with a bigger star, Oprah Winfrey, during a taping of her program "Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations from Times Square." "I have been thinking about running for president," O'Rourke told Winfrey as the packed audience cheered. The 46-year-old Democrat cited his desire to help unify the country. "I'm so excited at the prospect of being able to play that role," O'Rourke dazzled Democrats last year by nearly defeating Republican Sen. Ted Cruz in the country's largest red state. In recent weeks, however, his presidential prospects have been overshadowed by the generally well-received 2020 campaign launches of Sens. Kamala Harris of California, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Cory Booker of New Jersey.

Man who broke into Taylor Swift's home gets 6 months in jail

NEW YORK (AP)—A man

who broke into Taylor Swift's townhouse in New York City and took a nap has been sentenced to six months in jail. The New York Post's Page Six reports that 22-year-old Roger Alvarado, of Homestead, Florida, was sentenced Tuesday after pleading guilty to criminal contempt and attempted burglary. The Post says Alvarado plans to return to Florida after his jail stint, which is nearly finished, and serve five years' probation. He must also complete a mental-health program. Officers found Alvarado asleep in the pop star's home in the Tribeca neighborhood of Manhattan in April. Police say he had also used her shower. Swift was

not home during the break-in. Alvarado had been arrested at the same address last February on charges of breaking the front door with a shovel.

R. Kelly plans tour for Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand

NEW YORK (AP)—R. Kelly is announcing a new tour, but it won't be in the United States. The embattled entertainer announced on social media Tuesday that he'll be going to Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. "See y'all soon" the post said, accompanied by a picture of Kelly and the declaration "The King of R&B." No dates or venues were revealed. Kelly's career has

been stifled since a #MuteR-Kelly campaign gained momentum last year to protest his alleged sexual abuse of women and girls, which Kelly denies. Lifetime's documentary series "Surviving R. Kelly" last month drew even more attention to the allegations, and his record label has reportedly dropped him. Kelly is a multiplatinum R&B star who has not only notched multiple hits for himself, but also many high-profile performers.

ABC executive sees silver lining in Oscars flap: interest

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Oscars disarray over the exit of Kevin Hart as the host of

the show had an upside—people paid attention, ABC's entertainment president said Tuesday. "Ironically, I have found that the lack of clarity ... has kept the Oscars really in the conversation, and the mystery has been really compelling," said Karey Burke, whose network is the ceremony's longtime home. She called the interest proof that the Oscars are still relevant. Burke's worries about the host-less Feb. 24 ceremony have vanished as it comes together with a "phenomenal" line-up of presenters, she told a TV critics meeting. Tina Fey, Whoopi Goldberg, Daniel Craig, Jennifer Lopez, Chris Evans and Constance Wu are among them.



BOBBLEHEAD MUSEUM

In this Jan. 8, 2019 photo, National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum founders Brad Novak, left, and Phil Sklar, stand near the museum entrance at the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum in Milwaukee. The new museum may well hold the largest collection of bobbleheads anyone has ever seen, displaying more than 6,500 figures of athletes, mascots, celebrities, animals, cartoon characters, politicians and more.

AP/CARRIE ANTLINGER

Single mom drawn to married man with terminally ill wife

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mom. A few months ago I met a man who contacted me on social media. After meeting him, I realized he was married, but he was not happy. Unfortunately, his wife has a terminal illness, and he feels obligated to care for her until it is over. We formed a very close bond as we talked and soon realized we are in love and want to be together.

Because of her illness and lack of support from her immediate family, we agreed that he needs to fulfill his obligation to her, and I will wait for him. We have continued talking and spending any time we can together, even though her care always takes first priority.

When she found out about our relationship, she was very upset. She has left him many times in the past because of wrongdoings on both their parts, but since her illness she has come to rely on him for everything.

She claims to have deeper feelings for him since her illness, but he says it's just a fear of being alone. He claims his feelings for her are those of friendship and compassion, not love. My question is, do you think we are doing wrong to continue quietly seeing each other while he sees her through this illness, or should I step away until his obligation is completed?

WAITING FOR HIM

DEAR WAITING: Forgive me, but this sounds like the script for a *Movie of the Week*. I can't help but wonder what this man was doing looking for company on social media without mentioning that he was married.

Under the circumstances, you should take a break and let him finish his obligation to his terminally ill wife -- if she is, indeed, terminally ill. After that, because you have made promises to each other, you will be able to see each other openly, with honesty and integrity, and determine where the relationship winds up.

DEAR ABBY: My ex and I have a 2-year-old son. We were together only a short time before I found out I was expecting. He freaked out and left when I was five months along. A month after our son was born, he came back in the picture and there have been no issues since.

We live in different states now, but we are trying our best at co-parenting. My only issue is that his side of the family doesn't know about our son. Since we were together only a short time before I became pregnant, I never met them. Every time I bring up the subject of our son meeting his grandparents/family, he ignores the question and moves on.

Family is a big part of my life. I would be lost without their support and love. I don't want to deprive my son of any family

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



that has an interest in being in his life. Should I reach out to his family, tell them they have a grandson and try to connect with them? Or should I wait until my ex does something about it?

PROUD MOMMY IN ARIZONA

DEAR MOMMY: Give your ex a deadline to introduce you and their grandson to them. And if he doesn't meet it, send them a letter with your name, address and pictures enclosed.

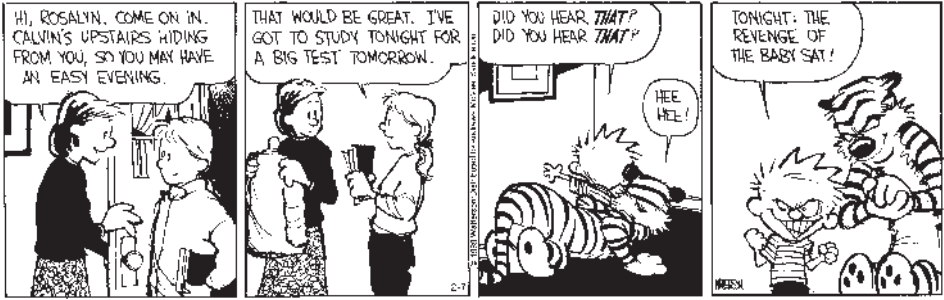
To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

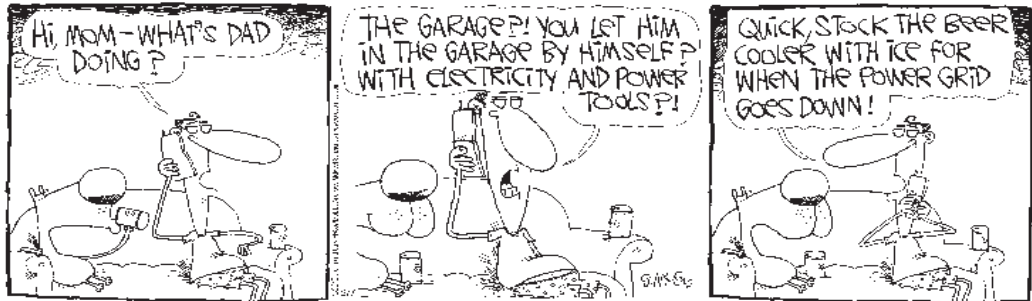
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Soviet space station

4 Dance move

8 Actress Fisher

12 — out a living

13 Abode

14 Punch

15 Shares with followers on social media

17 Fury

18 MSN rival

19 Fuming

21 Cop's badge

24 Flamenco cheer

25 Tri-umphed

26 Half a dozen

28 Travels by jet

32 Throat clearer

34 Jewel

36 Early Peruvian

37 Cleaning agent

39 Fawn's mom

41 Junior

42 Carried out

44 French cathedral city

46 Tea urn

50 Business mag

51 Pressing thing?

52 "The Hand-maid's Tale" author

56 King of the jungle

57 Always

58 Notable time

59 "I did it!"

60 Faction

61 Cowboy moniker

DOWN

1 Sea, to

2 Mamie's man

3 Lawyer's fee

4 Beach souvenirs

5 Water tester

6 911 responders

7 Green sauce

8 Haifa native

9 Bridge coup

10 Olympic sled

11 On in years

16 Misery

20 Sprite

21 Clear the decks?

22 Jolly laugh

23 Use a shovel

27 Deleted

29 Behind closed doors

30 Nobel Prize subj.

31 Without singer

33 "Material Girl"

35 Extinct bird

38 VII doubled

40 Asylum seeker, perhaps

43 Titled women

45 — jiffy

46 Sediment

47 "Carmen" solo

48 Disposition

49 Sitarist

53 Roulette bet

54 Before

55 Levy

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-7

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Asht-Kutcher, 41; Chris Rock, 54; Garth Brooks, 57; James Spader, 59.

Happy Birthday: Take on something new this year. How you wheel and deal will keep you in the running for a big change you've been working toward for years. Trust yourself and believe in your abilities to make gains that will allow you to enhance your lifestyle. Romance is highlighted and will encourage you to relax and enjoy life. Your numbers are 6, 14, 21, 26, 30, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look at every angle before making a decision. Don't count on anyone for help. Empty promises will leave you in a predicament. Concentrate on personal changes that will make you feel good. Don't share secrets or plans prematurely. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your imagination to come up with a plan that makes sense and will take care of any concerns you have moving forward. A personal change will give you the push you need to pursue something you want. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful who you trust. Someone will offer you something that isn't feasible. Ask questions and get to the bottom of any situation that could end up costing you emotionally or financially. Walk away from indulgent situations. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let your creativity lead the way. Don't be shy when it comes to expressing your feel-

ings and what you would like to see happen. A make-or-break situation should be handled with care. Romance will improve your life. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll thrive on change. Don't let boredom set in when it's up to you to make your life better. Satisfy your needs by taking action and finding positive alternatives to your current situation. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Follow through with your plans. Now is not the time to waffle or to give someone the wrong impression. Be precise and make your move with confidence. You can have what you want if you take a stand and make it happen. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't rely on someone who complains all the time. You need to surround yourself with positive people who are willing to help, not criticize. Change begins within, so stop procrastinating or waiting for someone else to make a move. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow your heart and pursue creative dreams. A chance to revisit something or someone that used to be a big part of your life will be revitalizing. Love and romance will enhance your personal life. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Trust your knowledge and ability to get to the bottom of things, not what someone tells you. If you want to make a change, do the legwork and research and follow through on your own. Don't let anyone interfere with your plans. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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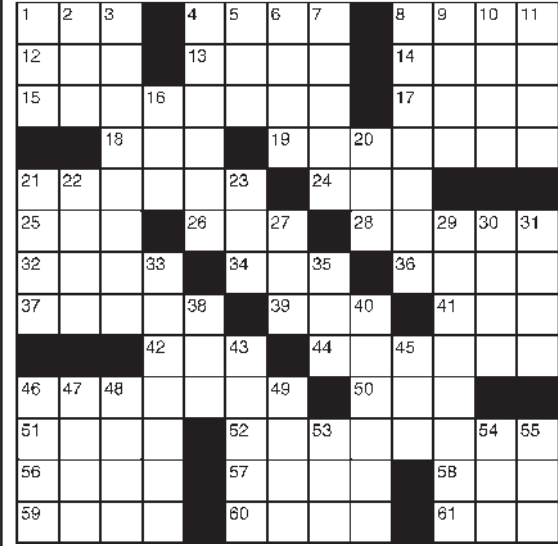
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to what you know. Don't take a risk or follow others. Do your own thing and focus on personal improvements and financial gains. A physical change will boost your confidence and result in unexpected compliments. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep moving forward. Refuse to let anyone get in your way or talk you into something you don't really want to do. Emotional manipulation can lead to loss. Focus on what you want and how you can improve your life. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Offer help, and you will impress someone skeptical of what you are trying to achieve. A change will turn out to be more favorable than you anticipate. Don't lose sight of what's important or become involved in excessive behavior. ***

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, ambitious and intelligent. You are benevolent and imaginative.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugeniast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.



SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

AMMONIUM NITRATE Solution: 10 letters

GRAINE GORDY HTAM
RHTLA EHFODDADCC
AE DENSITY DEBIH
DRR L LIRPHOEMBE
EURE Y SASEDMRUUM
RPENXTAIEGEEHC
EASLPPFLRHNSTIC
DLILAKLATBTIEAA
IUDELINORPAATRL
XMUSQUXCSMEGTAL
OREULEIROIOTAER
ROEESNECILVFESM
DFUELTSURCDENRZ
YEDLAWTSEOELDNAH
HSAWHITELBULOSR

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Airbag, Alkali, Ant, Chemical, Cold, Crust, Cubic, Density, Desert, Dry, Exothermic, Explosive, Farm, Formula, Fuel, Gas, Grade, Grain, Granule, Haber, Handle, Health, Heat, Humid, Hydrogen, Hydroxide, License, Liquefy, Math, Metal, Metathesis, NPK, Odda, Odor, Ostwald, Prill, Pure, Rating, Residue, Saltpeter, Sell, Soluble, Urea, Wash, Water, White

Yesterday's Answer: Butterfat

The NEW Volume 55 can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS



Videos

saipantribune.com

Typical Cinema

1/5

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Check out the video section of the Saipan Tribune website.

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Accountant (1)
Perform all and/or any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. Computes and records charges, receipts, refunds, or similar items. Type vouchers, invoices, checks, account statements, reports, and other records, using typewriter or computer. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers. Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records. Perform other related duties as required or as assigned.

Requires: High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com or post their resumes on the CNMI Department of Labor Website under JVA no. 19-02-66528. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than 5:00PM on Monday, February 18, 2019. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office located on the ground floor of the Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

WHATZIT Solution: One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl, four for a boy

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• 3-Liner	\$15
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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2. 😊

3. ♀

4. ♂

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Foles voiding contract, will be free agent



PHILADELPHIA—That didn't take long.

Nick Foles reportedly informed the Eagles on Tuesday night that he will pay \$2 million and become a free agent. That came just a few hours after the Eagles told him that they will pick up his option for 2019 for \$20.6 million.

A league source confirmed the Eagles informed Foles about picking up his option. ESPN reported that Foles will buy his freedom.

Both moves were expected once the Eagles announced last month that Carson Wentz is their quarterback going forward.

The question that remains is how the Eagles will work out Foles' exit. They could place the franchise tag on Foles for 2019, which would be worth in the range of \$23-\$25 million, then try to trade Foles if he signs the offer.

The window for the franchise tag runs from Feb. 19 through March 5.

Or the Eagles can do nothing and let Foles leave as a free agent when the new league year begins March 13. If the Eagles go that route, they could possibly get a compensatory third-round pick in the 2020 draft.

If they sign Foles to the franchise tag, then trade him, they could get a draft pick this year, or a player.

Foles took over for Wentz, who was injured in each of the last two Decembers, and led the Eagles on a playoff run.

In 2017, that resulted in the Super Bowl, where Foles was named the MVP. This past season, it resulted in an unlikely playoff run that ended in the divisional round against the New Orleans Saints.

If Foles does it again, it'll



AP
In this Dec. 23, 2018, file photo, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles looks to his right while under center during the team's NFL football game against the Houston Texans in Philadelphia.

likely be with another team.

New coordinator, same offense for Mariota, Titans

In Nashville, Arthur Smith has worked for a several head coaches, including four with the Tennessee Titans so he knows as well as anyone just how much turnover quarterback Marcus Mariota has dealt with in the NFL.

So while Smith represents more change, he and the Titans plan to keep things the same for Mariota's sake.

Smith will be the quarterback's fourth different offensive coordinator and fifth play-caller heading into this fifth NFL season. So to prevent Mariota and his teammates from having to learn new ter-

minology for plays and protections, Smith isn't planning an overhaul of the playbook.

"He's already changed enough," Smith said Tuesday. "So when he comes in here he'll know exactly how we're reading plays, he'll know exactly how we're calling plays. It just allows him to take another step."

Continuity and familiarity were major factors in Smith's promotion from tight ends coach to offensive coordinator, replacing Matt LaFleur — who was hired last month by the Green Bay Packers. Smith said he made clear his career goals included becoming a coordinator when talking with Titans coach Mike Vrabel, and the man who started coaching as a graduate assistant at his alma mater North Carolina

said he has been very lucky.

Mike Munchak hired Smith in 2011 as a defensive quality control assistant before switching him to offense. Smith assisted with the offensive line and tight ends in 2013 and became assistant tight ends coach in 2014 under new coach Ken Whisenhunt. When Mike Mularkey replaced Whisenhunt in November 2015, Smith took over the tight ends and coached the group through 2018 under Mike Vrabel.

"I've always just tried to do a good job with the job that they gave me," Smith said.

Smith takes over at a crucial period. The Titans have gone 9-7 in three straight seasons with only one playoff berth to show for it, and Mariota is

under contract only for 2019 on his fifth-year option paying him \$20.9 million.

The Titans need to know how much more they should invest in Mariota, who missed three starts including the season finale with a playoff berth on the line in 2018 and is 27-28 as a starter in his career. Mariota had his fewest yards passing with 2,528 yards last season and only 11 touchdown passes while being sacked a career-high 42 times.

While Smith won't be changing the terminology, he said there are offensive changes on the horizon.

Smith believes the best way to get the most out of Mariota is by improving the entire offense, and the Titans have plenty of room for that after

ranking just 25th in total yards, 29th in yards passing and 27th in points scored. That's why the Titans aren't changing the language or the offense allowing them to start work faster April 15 for the offseason program. Smith made clear there are lots of variations in the offense, allowing flexibility for specific game plans.

Keeping Mariota healthy also will be critical to Tennessee's success.

"The play-calling definitely can help," Smith said. "It's not the end all be all, but it'll definitely be a conscious effort to keep him healthy."

Defensive coordinator Dean Pees also talked to reporters Tuesday for the first time since deciding to return for his second season on Vrabel's staff.

NEW YORK—U.S. Soccer Federation President Carlos Cordeiro is pleased FIFA listened to his requests for video review to be used at the Women's World Cup. Now he's urging the FIFA Council to make it official.

FIFA's delay in deciding whether to deploy VARs raised concerns among coaches and players that the women's showpiece in France wouldn't have the same technology made available to the men's World Cup last year.

But The Associated Press reported Monday that Women's World Cup referees are now in training with video assistant referees in Qatar, allowing FIFA's top decision-making body to approve them for the June 7-July 7 tournament in France.

"We think it's very impor-

US Soccer welcomes VAR progress, urges Women's WC approval

tant for VAR to be part of the Women's World Cup," Cordeiro told the AP on Tuesday. "U.S. Soccer has been advocating for this at all levels and I know that FIFA has been listening to us, and to others."

"In fact, at a FIFA summit of member association presidents just a few weeks ago (in Morocco), I spoke to this very point. We have seen just how successful it was in Russia and believe that success can be replicated in France."

FIFA has announced a pool of 27 referees and 47 assistant referees for the Women's World Cup and training is taking place in seminars and on the field with VAR to gain the necessary experience.

While the Women's World Cup referees and their assis-

stants are women, most of the VARs are men, with some having gained experience at the World Cup in Russia. No domestic women's competition currently uses VAR.

"It's important for the game, for fans around the world and, of course, for our players on the field that we do everything possible to include VAR at the Women's World Cup," Cordeiro said.

The FIFA Council will be able to approve VAR for the Women's World Cup at a meeting March 14-15 in Miami.

Meanwhile, in Geneva, the easy part of UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin's next four-year term as the leader of European soccer's governing body is winning re-election

Thursday as the only candidate.

After the ballot formality in Rome, challenges stack up for the lawyer from Slovenia — elite clubs demanding more Champions League money and FIFA wanting new competitions that could threaten UEFA's prized assets.

Long-standing conflict with FIFA and its president, Gianni Infantino, will likely flare up again ahead of a mid-March meeting in Miami.

Ceferin will also need to protect the Champions League — and keep a break-away Super League at bay — through two rounds of negotiations to shape it for the next decade. He must strike a balance between a clique of top clubs against national leagues

and smaller clubs who want to stop a wealth gap widening.

Blocking Infantino's expansion plans has helped define Ceferin's leadership.

Ceferin and Infantino were elected in 2016 to replace their banned predecessors, Michel Platini and Sepp Blatter, whose hostilities they have renewed.

Peace should reign in Rome after Infantino's arrival Wednesday at UEFA's annual gathering. Hours earlier, Infantino should get confirmation he also will face no opponent for re-election on June 5 in Paris.

The main issue is Infantino pushing his FIFA Council for almost a year to accept a secretive \$25 billion offer from private investors. They want to jointly run an expanded Club

World Cup and worldwide Nations League — originally a UEFA idea — for 12 years from 2021.

A bigger Club World Cup, of perhaps 24 teams including 12 Europeans, could take attention and value from the UEFA-run Champions League.

"Football is not for sale," Ceferin said in a speech last May, denouncing unnamed "colleagues, who are blinded by the pursuit of profit ... considering to sell the soul of football tournaments to nebulous private funds."

Infantino has closely allied with South American soccer president Alejandro Dominguez, who typically airs ideas that promote the FIFA leader's agenda.

FIFA will stage more rounds of consultation before the next FIFA Council in Miami.



Pacers' 3-point flurry buries Lakers in LeBron's worst loss



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers have suddenly found a new winning combination.

Not even LeBron James could slow it down Tuesday night.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 24 points and the Pacers tied an NBA franchise-record by making 19 3-pointers in a 136-94 rout over the Los Angeles Lakers — the most lopsided loss James has endured in his 16-year career.

"They scored 33 points off our 19 turnovers and that was from the beginning of the game. We can't play from behind like that," James said. "I think it (the jet lag) hit us. That first game flying across the country looked like it had a lot to do with it, but we didn't come out with the defensive mentality we had the last time we played them and they

made us pay for it."

Twice previously James' teams had been blown out by 36: Against Washington in April 2008 and in the 2013 NBA Finals against San Antonio. But this was might go down as the most embarrassing of the three.

Indiana led wire-to-wire and never allowed the Lakers to get within single digits after the first basket of the second quarter despite playing without All-Star guard Victor Oladipo and on the tail end of a back-to-back following a four-game trip.

At one point, the Pacers led by 46.

And after James left with 2:06 remaining in the third quarter, coach Luke Walton wisely kept the four-time MVP him on the bench for the rest of the night.

James was not himself either after missing 17 of the

Boston Celtics, Pelicans have discussed Tatum-Davis deal

NEW ORLEANS—Reports on Tuesday morning said that the Boston Celtics and New Orleans Pelicans—who can't complete a trade for Anthony Davis until July 1 when Kyrie Irving becomes a free agent—haven't directly talked about a Jayson Tatum swap.

Tuesday evening, a report surfaced that the Celtics and Pelicans have had direct contact about a Tatum-Davis deal that could take place this summer.

According to The Athletic's Sam Amick, while no formal offer can be made at this juncture, the talk between the New Orleans front office and Celtics GM Danny Ainge has centered on Tatum.

Of course all sides in the AD sweepstakes are trying to play each other before the Feb. 7 trade deadline. The Los Angeles Lakers are hoping they can entice the Pelicans to take their offer of seemingly every player on their roster not named LeBron James, plus several draft picks. Then again, LA has reportedly decided to pull out of talks, which from a distance feels like nothing more than a negotiating tactic.

There's nothing keeping New Orleans from holding out Davis the rest of the season despite his medical ability to play, then waiting to see what the Lakers and Celtics can offer with everything square on July 1. That's not in the Lakers' best interest, since they hold just about the weakest possible offer of any Davis suitor.

Expect more posturing as this week drags on. At this

point, we don't know if Davis finishes the season in New Orleans, LA, or elsewhere. There isn't a single outcome that would surprise us.

Wall out for a year

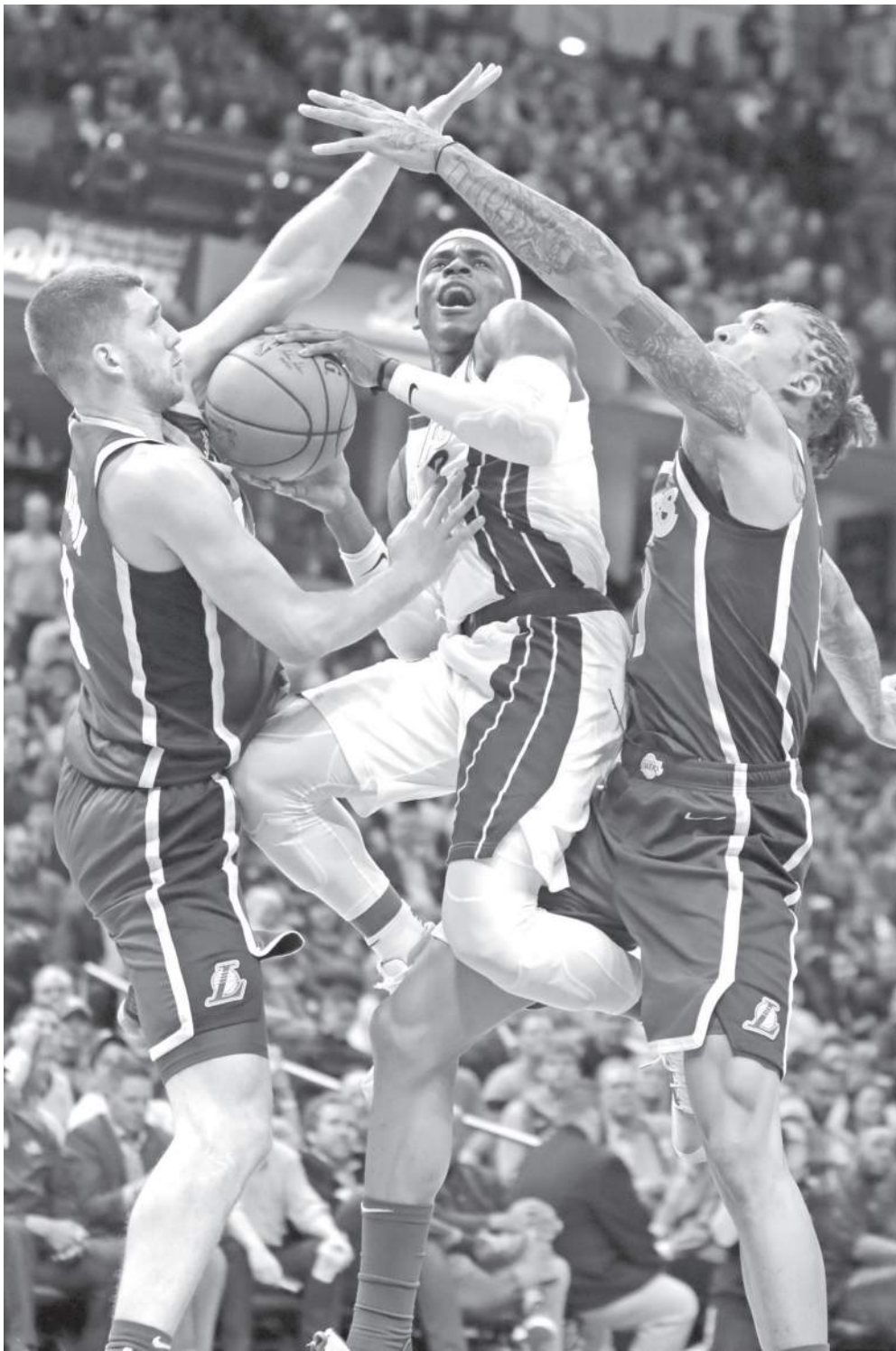
Meanwhile, Washington Wizards star John Wall will miss approximately the next 12 months with a ruptured left Achilles tendon after "slipping and falling" in his home, the team said in a news release on Tuesday.

Wall underwent season-ending surgery on his left heel on Jan. 8 and developed an infection in the incision from that procedure before suffering the rupture, according to the Wizards. The team said the rupture was diagnosed by Wizards director of medical services and orthopedist Dr. Wiemi Douguilh during a procedure to clean out the infection.

Douguilh said on a conference call with reporters Tuesday afternoon that Wall's injury is unusual because he didn't suffer a complete rupture, but from the standpoint of fixing the Achilles and healing, the injury falls within the parameters of a full rupture.

Wall, who has become one of the NBA's top point guards due in large part to his explosive athleticism, signed a four-year, \$170 million contract extension in the summer of 2017. It begins next season.

Wall's surgery has yet to be scheduled, but it will be performed by Dr. Robert Anderson, who performed his initial surgery.



Indiana Pacers guard Aaron Holiday, center, shoots between Los Angeles Lakers guard Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk, left, and forward Michael Beasley, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019. The Pacers routed the Lakers, 136-94.

after leading by 20.

Pistons 105, Knicks 92

In New York, Blake Griffin scored 29 points, Andre Drummond had 17 points and 15 rebounds, and the Pistons handed the Knicks their 14th straight loss.

Reggie Bullock and Reggie Jackson each added 19 points for the Pistons.

Dennis Smith Jr., playing his second game for New York, led the Knicks with 25 points.

New York has dropped a team-record 15 straight at Madison Square Garden. The Knicks haven't won since Jan. 4 against the Lakers in Los Angeles. Their last win at MSG was a 136-134 overtime victory against Milwaukee on Dec. 1.

Grizzlies 108, Timberwolves 106

In Memphis, Mike Conley had 25 points and nine assists in possibly his last game for Memphis, and the Grizzlies beat the Minnesota Timberwolves on Justin Holiday's two free throws with .1 seconds remaining.

Jaren Jackson Jr. added 23 points for Memphis, which won its second straight game. Ivan Rabb had a career-high 19 points to go along with 11 rebounds, while Holiday finished with 17 points.

Karl-Anthony Town had 26 points and 18 rebounds for Minnesota, and Dario Saric finished with 22 points. Luol Deng scored 18.

Raptors 119, 76ers 107

In Philadelphia, Kyle Lowry had 20 points amid reports that Toronto has offered him in a trade, and the Raptors held off the Philadelphia 76ers in a matchup between two of the Eastern Conference's top teams.

Kawhi Leonard scored 24 points and Serge Ibaka had 20 points and 10 rebounds to help Toronto overcome another big game for Joel Embiid.

Embiid had 37 points and 13 rebounds for his league-leading 44th double-double. Ben Simmons scored 20 points for Philadelphia, and Jimmy Butler had 18.

Lowry seemed unfazed by a report from Sports Illustrated that Toronto had offered him to Memphis as part of a trade package for Mike Conley and Marc Gasol.

previous 18 games with an injured groin. He missed three of his first five shots, was beaten three times early on defense and had five first-half turnovers before finishing with 18 points, nine assists, seven rebounds and six turnovers.

JaVale McGee added 16 as the Lakers lost for the sixth time in eight games amid the continuing swirl of trade rumors, something Pacers fans noted by repeatedly chanting "LeBron's gonna trade you."

"I know it has to be tough on a lot of our guys—especially our young guys," James said. "They've just never been a part of it and they're hearing it every single day. I know that the worst thing you could right now is be on social media and I know all young guys love social media. So, that definitely can't help."

Thunder 132, Magic 122

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook posted his seventh straight triple-double, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Orlando Magic.

Westbrook finished with 16

points, 16 assists and 15 rebounds to match the longest triple-double streak of his career. It was his 20th of the season and No. 124 for his career.

Paul George scored 39 points to help the Thunder win for the eighth time in nine games. Dennis Schroder had 20 points, and Jerami Grant had 19 points.

Evan Fournier scored 25 points for the Magic, and Aaron Gordon added 18 points and 10 assists.

Celtics 103, Cavaliers 96

In Cleveland, Jayson Tatum scored 25 points, and Boston earned its fifth straight victory despite missing All-Star guard Kyrie Irving.

A strained left hip prevented Irving from facing his former team, but the Celtics made up for his absence by getting 18 points from Gordon Hayward and 17 from Marcus Smart.

Rookie Collin Sexton scored 27—but none in the fourth quarter—for the Cavs, who dropped to 3-20 since Dec. 19. Alec Burks, who has been linked to recent trade

talks, added 21 for Cleveland. Larry Nance Jr. had 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Celtics coach Brad Stevens said Irving, who is averaging a team-high 23.8 points per game, may return Thursday when Boston hosts LeBron James and the Lakers, hours after the NBA's trade deadline.

Clippers 117, Hornets 115

In Charlotte, Tobias Harris scored 34 points, including a running jumper with 4.3 seconds remaining, and the Clippers rallied from 20 points down to secure the road win.

Charlotte had a chance to tie or take the lead on its last possession, but Marvin Williams' 3-point attempt was short at the buzzer.

Lou Williams scored 31 points for the Clippers. Montrezl Harrell added 16 and Patrick Beverley had 15 points in Los Angeles' third road game in four days.

Kemba Walker scored 32 points and Jeremy Lamb added 22 for the Hornets.

It was the second time this season Charlotte lost a game

Pacific Oceania bows to China

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

China gave Pacific Oceania a rude welcome in the 2019 Fed Cup by BNP Paribas, Asia/Oceania Zone Group I after clinching an early win yesterday at the National Tennis Centre indoor courts in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The heavily-favored Chinese swept the two singles game to shut the door on Pacific Oceania, which has the CNMI's Carol Lee, Samoa's Steffi Carruthers, and Papua New Guinea's Abigail Tere-Apisah and Violet Apisah as members and is playing in the elite Group I for the first time after getting the promotion last season.

Apisah started things off for the Gilles De Gouy-captained Pacific Oceania and was pitted against world No. 550 Zhaoxuan Yang in the first singles match. Apisah gave Yang a good game before the Chinese eked out a 6-4, 6-4 victory. Yang leaned on her second



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Violet Apisah, Carol Lee, Abigail Tere-Apisah, and Steffi Carruthers attend the welcome dinner for the 2019 Fed Cup by BNP Paribas, Asia/Oceania Zone Group I last weekend in Astana, Kazakhstan.

serve to edge Apisah as the former posted 17/30 (57 percent) on second serve points won against the latter's 7/23 (30 percent).

The second serve points won was also the deciding factor in the second singles match, which had top players from the opposing teams squaring off with No. 40 Shuai Zhang battling Tere-Apisah (No. 342). Zhang was 15-of-23, while the PNG player went only 2-for-16 with six double faults, allowing the Chinese to cruise to a 6-1, 6-2 victory and giving the No. 1 seed team the outright win in the opener.

Tere-Apisah also played in the third game in the pairing, teaming up with Carruthers in the doubles. The Pacific Oce-

ania duo tied the match after two sets and were ahead at 2-1 in the third. Tere-Apisah and Carruthers prevailed in the opening set, 6-3, while the Chinese pair recovered in the second in similar scores. The complete results of the doubles match were unavailable at press time.

Meanwhile, Lee is hoping to play for Pacific Oceania today when they face South Korea, which is represented by Na-Lae Han, Su Jeong Jang, Sunam Jeong, and Na Ri Kim, and captain Young-Ja Choi. Then, tomorrow, Lee and company will close out the pool play against Indonesia.

Pacific Oceania needs at least one win in its last two matches to avoid an automatic relegation to Group II. A sweep of the final two games and a No.2 finish in Pool B will allow the team to stay in Group I, while a third place ranking will put the squad in a playoff game against Pool A's No. 3. In the playoff, the winner will remain in Group I, while the loser will drop to Group II.

Cards hope Goldschmidt can lead them back to playoffs

ST. LOUIS (AP) — After missing postseason play for the past three seasons, the St. Louis Cardinals believe they've struck gold with Paul Goldschmidt in their quest to play into October.

"We knew we just couldn't have a stagnant offseason. We knew we had to make some changes to our club because we felt like even though we had a good team last year, we still weren't good enough," said John Mozeliak, the team's president of baseball operations.

"We looked at all the different options that might be out there, whether it be the free-agent market or what our trade options might look like. We felt that Paul checked so many boxes for us that it made sense," he said.

St. Louis acquired the slugging first baseman from the Arizona Diamondbacks in December for pitcher Luke Weaver, catcher Carson Kelly, minor league infielder Andy Young and a 2019 draft pick.

Goldschmidt was glad to

join the Cardinals.

"This organization here has had success for a really long time and sustained it and that's really tough to do," Goldschmidt recently said at a winter fan event. "I'm looking forward to finding ways to help us win. I'm excited about that. This division is really good top to bottom. It's going to be a challenge."

St. Louis finished 88-74 last season. To remedy its postseason drought, the club sought a big bat to put in a lineup that includes Matt Carpenter, Marcell Ozuna and Yadier Molina to better compete with Milwaukee and Chicago, the last two NL Central Division champions.

The Cardinals' postseason drought is their longest since 1997-99.

Mozeliak is hoping Goldschmidt can boost an offense that finished fourth in the NL in homers last season (205) and sixth in runs (759).

The 31-year-old Goldschmidt has made six straight All-Star Games — Mike Trout and Salvador Perez are the only other players in the ma-

jors with a current streak that long.

Goldschmidt hit .290 with 33 homers and 83 RBIs last year, his fourth time in the past six years with at least 30 homers. Over the past eight seasons, he's averaged 31 home runs, 40 doubles, 97 walks and a .930 OPS.

A three-time Gold Glove winner, Goldschmidt also brings some baserunning skills with him. He stole 32 bases in 2016, and has averaged 18 a year over his career.

Goldschmidt's teammates are excited about his arrival. Second baseman Kolten Wong said he told Mozeliak the team's defense will be much better with Goldschmidt.

"It's going to be tough for these guys to sneak a ball past us on the right side," Wong said. "(This) allows me to be more free and go for balls I know I can go after, and not go after balls to my left, because I know he's going to be there."

Adding Goldschmidt also will allow the club to move Matt Carpenter to third base on a full-time basis.

"I couldn't be happier not only that I'm moving across the diamond but who I'm moving for," Carpenter said. "When I got that phone call about who we were getting at first base, I couldn't have been more excited."

Durable, Goldschmidt has played less than 145 games just once in his last six seasons. Despite an incredibly slow start to last season, he bounced back.

"As you saw, I turned it around," he said. "It wasn't like I could guarantee I would go out there get hits. It was just keep working. A lot of the credit goes to the hitting coaches we had with Arizona last year. I was relying on those guys. You don't want to struggle but I've had ups and downs forever. As long as this game has been going on, everyone has ups and downs."

Goldschmidt has a \$14.5 million salary in the final season of a seven-year deal he signed with Arizona. He will be eligible for free agency after next season.

day's is \$15.

Swimmers can enter in one of the four courses: 50 meters (minnow and no registration fee) 750m (meek division/two loops), 1,500m (tweener), and 2,250m (mighty/three loops).

"This event is a great tune-up for triathletes participating in the Tagaman, as well as for beginner swimmers," Winkfield said.

port the weekend event, as proceeds from the tournament will go to SSC swimmers that will participate in three off-island competitions.

Pre-registration can be done by emailing Saipanswimclub@gmail.com., while race day signup is from 6am to 6:45am, and the first race will kick off at 7am. Pre-registration fee is only \$10, while race

Junior, Senior League managers invited to Saturday meeting

Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. is also inviting managers of Junior and Senior League in the 2019 season to attend a meeting on Feb. 9.

The meeting, which is initially open for Minor and



Major League managers, is set for 10am at the Department of Public Work's ground and transportation office in Lower Base.

For more information about the meeting, contact Mike Borja at 483-25-26. (PR)

EAGLES

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five consecutive serves.

Despite the loss in the first set and with SIS threatening to dethrone them, the Lady Eagles remained focus and rebounded in the second behind the excellent performances of the quartet of Woo, Nunez, Phan, and Clerisse Dacumos. Phan and Nunez consistently connected on Dacumos' sets, while Woo mustered seven unanswered serves to give GCA a 22-19 advantage. Tybaco strung together seven consecutive serves of her own to keep SIS afloat, but her heroics was ultimately nullified by the team effort of the surging Eagles, who pulled off the close win in the second and kept going in the third for GCA's second straight title.

It was a fitting championship win for Phan, who played her last season in the league, while the title was a perfect start for rookie Kar-

ina Dilse. Both players were grateful to the team's supporters, their teammates for their hardwork, and coach Cesar Libut for his selfless assistance to the players.

"I would like to thank Mr. C (Libut) and his family for giving their time and effort to train us, my teammates for their dedication to the team and the game, and lastly to all those who have and continued to support us," Phan said.

"I would like to thank God for giving me the talent and opportunity to learn and play volleyball," Dilse said. "I would also like to thank our coach, Mr. C. He is always encouraging us to be the best players we can be and is always there for us."

Meanwhile, the boys division finals between GCA and SIS was suspended midway in the second set due to the lack of power at the Ada Gymnasium last night. GCA won the first set, 25-20. The title game will resume today at 3:30pm.

SSC

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cific Games in Apia, Samoa. Swimming (pool and ocean) will run from July 9 to 13 at the Samoa Aquatic Centre at the Faleata Sports Complex.

Then just a week after the races in Samoa, SSC swimmers will compete in the 2019 World Swimming Cham-

pionships (long course) in Gwangju, South Korea from July 21 to 28.

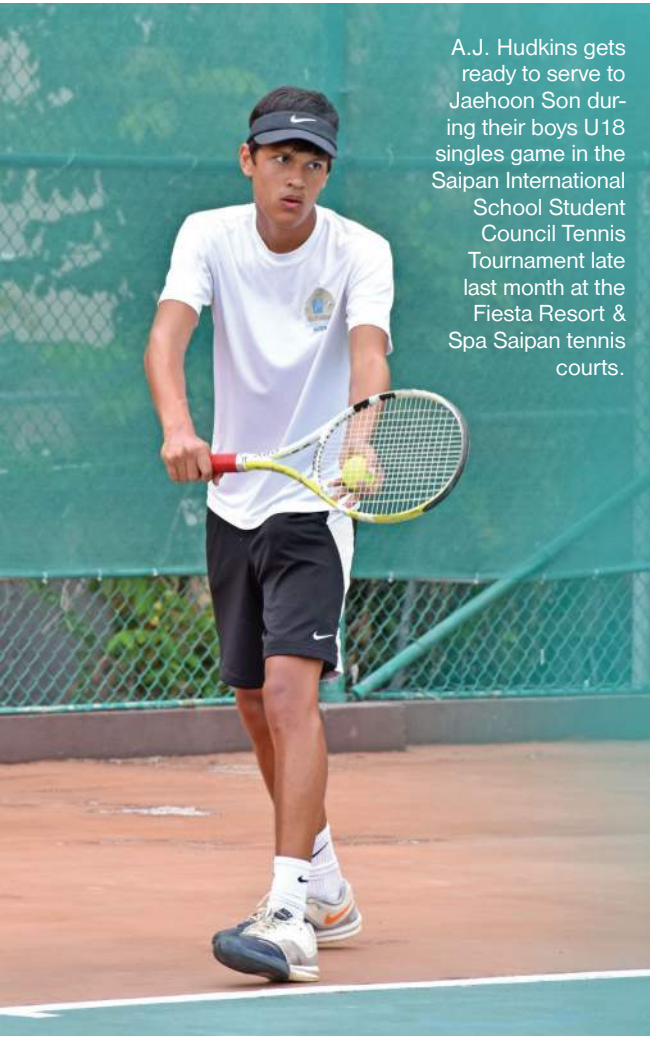
Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim at Kanoa Resort

Meanwhile, the 14th SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim will be held this Saturday in the waters off Kanoa Resort.

The club is encouraging swimmers (all ages) to sup-

SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A.J. Hudkins gets ready to serve to Jaehoon Son during their boys U18 singles game in the Saipan International School Student Council Tennis Tournament late last month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.



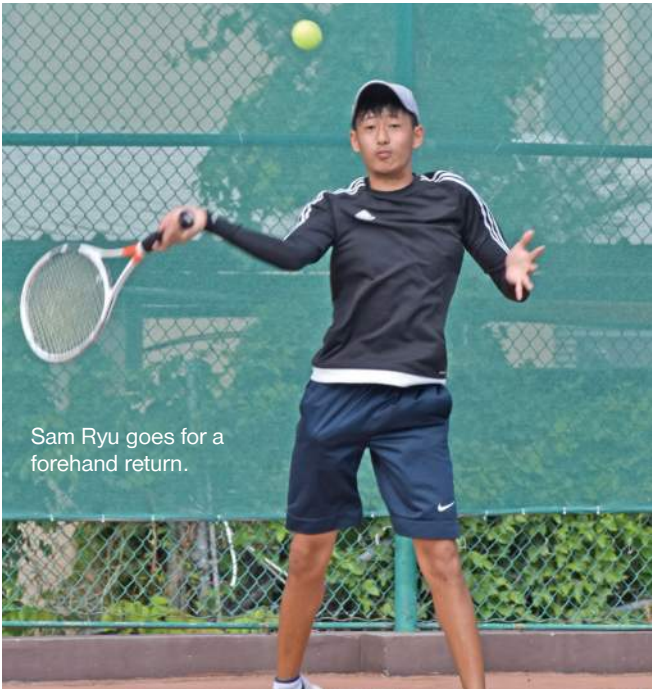
David Kwon, left, and Malika Miyawaki exchange high-fives after scoring a point against Sam Ryu and Min Cho during their U18 advanced doubles game.



David Kwon makes a baseline return.



Min Cho, right, hits the ball, while his teammate, Sam Ryu stands by.



Sam Ryu goes for a forehand return.



Cole Chambers eyes his target during his and Gillian Villagomez's title match against Alex Park and Junhee Lee in the U18 novice doubles event.



Daniel Kang reaches for the low ball during his semis match against Jun Wang in the boys U14 singles event.



Foles voiding contract, will be free agent

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Pacers' 3-point flurry buries Lakers in LeBron's worst loss

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Back-to-back for Lady Eagles



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Grace Christian Academy coach Cesar Libut huddles with his players during a break in their title game against Saipan International School in the girls high school division of the CCOPSA volleyball league yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Grace Christian Academy players flash the No. 1 sign after beating Saipan International School and ruling the girls high school division of the CCOPSA volleyball league yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Grace Christian Academy pulled off a come-from-behind victory over Saipan International School in the girls high school division finals of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League yesterday at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Lady Eagles dropped the opening set, 22-25, but rallied in the final two to steal the win from the Lady Geckos, 25-22, 15-9, and defend the

championship they won last season, incidentally against SIS, too.

Sunny Woo heated up for GCA at the perfect time when

she delivered in the deciding third set. She had four consecutive serves and had two aces in that cru-



cial stretch to power the Eagles past the Lady Geckos. Before Woo's serving surge, the score was knotted

up, as neither team was willing to give in with the division championship and the schools' pride at stake. The Lady Eagles then gained cushion off

Woo's serves, 8-6, while GCA frontline hitters Jasmine Phan and Anna Nunez also helped the back-to-back champions keep the upper hand in the decider. Maury Zon Tybaco and Malika Miyawaki tried to move SIS closer, hoping to beat GCA this time after bowing to the same squad last season, but their efforts were not enough, as the Lady Geckos absorbed another sorry loss. SIS also battled GCA in a three-set finale last year with the Lady Eagles taking 25-18, 16-25, 15-7 triumph.

In the finals rematch, SIS implemented a multi-front assault in the opening set with Miyawaki, Tybaco, Maria Gregoire, and Sally Lai alternating spiking duties to ensure that their squad maintained firm control of the match. With the Lady Geckos ahead, 18-13, Karina Dilse found her groove from the server's spot and delivered six uninterrupted serves to briefly give GCA the lead, 19-18. However, the Lady Eagles' stay on top was short-lived, as Cindy Kim closed the first set out with

SSC swimmers to race in 3 off-island tourneys



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club swimmers pose for a photo after a training session at Paupau Beach this week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club members are still resolute despite the continued closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, as instead of sulking over the lack of a suitable venue, they are preparing to compete in three regional tournaments in the first half of the year.

According to SSC coach Jacoby Winkfield, they will first participate in the inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships that Palau will be hosting from April 4 to 7. The tournament is very timely, as the club has yet to compete in a tournament (at swimming pool) since the facility in Marpi shut down

last Sept. 30. Had the 50-meter pool remained open, SSC would have been preparing to host the international invitational meet, which in the past was held late March with Palau, Guam, the Marshall Islands, the Pohnpei swimmers coming over to Saipan to challenge CNMI swimmers. In the regional tournament in Palau in April, SSC members will be pitted against swimmers that have been racing in the invitational meet.

After the competition in Palau, SSC swimmers, which trains in the waters off Paupau Beach, will suit up for the CNMI Team that will see action in the 2019 Pa-

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